# Daily Report

# Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-083
Wednesday
29 April 1992

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## Latin America

*FBIS-LAT-92-083* *29 April 1992*

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## Peru

Maximo San Roman, who was proclaimed constitutional president by the dissolved Congress, proposes the establishment of a "transition government" by 28 July which would require President Fujimori, his two vice presidents, and the legislature to resign, Lima TV reports. The proposal calls for general elections by 31 January 1993, when the president of the Republic and the legislature would be elected. San Roman says his proposal has no intention of giving himself a "dominant role" since his plan would require his resignation as former first vice president. San Roman states the sole intention of his proposal is to "bring back democratic institutionality to our people."

In an interview with Lima TV on 29 April, President Fujimori says that he is willing to "study and analyze" other alternatives to his schedule for returning democracy to the country. Fujimori also says he has "no knowledge" of San Roman's scheduled national dialogue on 30 April.

In other domestic news, Dr. Luis Eduardo Serpa Segura was elected Supreme Court president on 28 April, Lima TV reports. An EXPRESO article reports that charges have been officially filed against former President Alan Garcia and former Interior Minister Augustin Mantilla Campos for illegal possession of weapons; Hugo Denegri Cornejo, the newly appointed attorney general, will review the charges and decide whether or not to formalize them before the judicial branch.

## Argentina

Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella states that Argentina "has not changed its stance and it categorically condemns the gross violations of the Peruvian Constitution that have been committed by Fujimori," Madrid EFE reports. Di Tella makes these comments to deny rumors that Argentina had assumed a "more pragmatic" stance with regard to Peru.

## El Salvador

San Salvador TV reports the FMLN's "strong reaction" to the reformation of the Security Institutions Law approved by the Legislative Assembly by suspending troop demobilization until the purpose of the reforms is explained. FMLN Commander Martinez says the "government's new position hinders the peace process." During a news conference on San Salvador TV, President Cristiani states that "It is time to stop introducing new reasons or excuses to avoid completing the troop concentration," and maintains the government is complying with the spirit of the peace accords.

## Guatemala

National Palace sources indicate that President Jorge Serrano Elias has ordered the replacement of a number of his cabinet advisers, NOTIMEX reports. Vice President Espina denies that these changes represent "cracks" in the government.

## Colombia

Santa Fe de Bogota TV reports that an agreement has been reached with the Colombian Telecommunications Enterprise (Telecom) on the evening of 28 April, thus ending the strike that had shut down communications throughout the country. Senator Eduardo Pizano, one of the sponsors of the agreement, says that once the agreement is signed, the workers have committed "themselves to work 24 hours a day to restore communications" within the country as well as abroad.

## Cuba

### UN Asked To Investigate U.S. 'Terrorist Acts'

*FL2904003092 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] Today, Cuba requested a meeting of the UN Security Council to immediately investigate U.S. terrorist acts against Cuba and demanded the extradition of those responsible for the sabotage of a Cuban civilian plane which resulted in the deaths of 73 people in 1976. The Cuban request states that the international community cannot allow the U.S. Government to impose its hegemonistic intentions or a concept of international relations based on abusive and illegal manipulation of the United Nations, using arbitrariness and cynicism. In this regard, Cuba believes that the UN Security Council has the unavoidable obligation to also condemn the terrorist actions of the U.S. Government and demand, among other things, the extradition of those—protected by U.S. authorities—responsible for the bombing of a Cuban civilian plane.

The text of the request literally adds: In the same manner that we reject international terrorism, we demand an immediate end to the terrorism that the U.S. Government promotes, fosters, or tolerates against Cuba. Cuban Ambassador to the UN Ricardo Alarcon presented the Cuban request to Security Council President. On 31 January, the Security Council held its first meeting and agreed, as a priority item, to end international terrorism. As the Cuban request states, the Security Council decided, and we quote literally: Every state has the obligation to abstain from organizing or promoting terrorist acts against another state, to aid such acts, participate in them, or permit organized activities in their territory to commit such acts, when such acts involve threats or use of force.

The Cuban document points out that for more than three decades, terrorist groups on U.S. territory have militarily organized, trained, and openly and shamelessly announced their plans to invade Cuba. The document adds that recently, several of those terrorists have been caught inside Cuba. They and their sponsors have revealed how they use camps and installations in the state of Florida to carry out their acts of villainy.

The Cuban request recalls that one of the most abominable, repugnant, and cruelest acts of terrorism was the destruction in mid-flight, near Barbados, on 6 October 1976, of a Cuban civilian plane, an act that took the lives of 73 people. Despite the time elapsed, the document adds, the people who planned this atrocity—Mr. Orlando Bosch and Mr. Luis Posada Carriles—have yet to be punished and are presently under the protection of the U.S. Government.

The bombing of the Cubana Airlines plane, a terrorist act carried out by agents trained and directed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, was the first act of international terrorism of its kind, and its method was later copied for use against the U.S. Pan-American flight, and the UTA flight of France. The Cuban document states that these acts must be firmly condemned and that their authors must be severely punished. The Cuban Government unflinchingly condemns them, demands that these actions be completely clarified, and that justice be done with full rigor of the law. The Cuban document also recalls that Cubana Airlines flight 455 was a civilian flight, its victims human beings, and that the direct perpetrators of this horrendous act continue to escape justice, due to the protection of the U.S. Government.

The Cuban document states toward the end: With the same firmness with which we condemn the attacks against the Pan-Am and UTA flights, we demand that the Security Council condemn the bombing of the Cubana flight. To not do so—stresses the document—would be an immoral act dishonoring the Security Council and undermining its prestige and credibility.

### Report to UNCED on Success of Energy Program

*FL2904115392 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1954 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] Cuba has solved the main environmental problem of developing countries: the fulfillment of the basic energy needs of broad sectors of the population. This is stated in the Cuban National Report to UNCED-92 [UN Conference on Environment and Development], which will take place from 1 to 12 July in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The report refers to the accomplishments of the Cuban energy program after 30 years of intense work.

According to statistics, the energy consumption in kilograms of fuel per capita in 1959 was 520 but it had increased by 1989, 30 years later. The introduction of nuclear energy in the next few years will be a positive factor in creating cleaner air. All these programs will also make it possible to reduce oil imports.

### Casas Regueiro Meets With PRC Defense Minister

*FL2904020692 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] Division General Julio Casas Regueiro, first substitute for the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [as heard], was received today in Beijing by Qin Jiwei, Chinese minister of national defense. Casas Regueiro, a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, arrived yesterday in the Chinese capital as part of a goodwill visit answering an invitation from the PRC Ministry of Defense.

### Koreans Bring Advanced Nickel Technology

*FL2804192092 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] Korean specialists have introduced advanced technology projects in mechanized production to reduce

imports for the nickel industry. The group of 29 specialized engineers and technicians, the last of more than 200 professionals from the DPRK who came to Moa Municipality in Holguin Province more than two years ago, have saved more than 2 million pesos in the combined manufacture and repair of equipment and technical parts at the mechanical nickel complex.

With the application of new programs at this plant, the Korean technicians have introduced mass production of cutting equipment of all kinds, among which are hobs which have a very exclusive use and which Cuba had to buy in foreign markets at a high price.

Together with other programs, the DPRK specialists living in Moa Municipality in Holguin Province have reconditioned 35 machine tools and pieces of equipment made in Europe, devised a roller for screws of varying sizes, and trained more than 200 mid-level technicians and workers qualified to do mechanical construction.

### Donated Medicine Arrives From Galicia, Spain

*FL2804183692 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] A cargo of donations, given in solidarity, has arrived in Havana from Spain. A shipment of 131 packages of medicine, weighing 1,300 kilograms, make up the donation from the Galician Regional Government to the the Cuban Public Health Ministry.

### Commentary on Increased Ties With Latin America

*PA2804232992 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1330 GMT 25 Apr 92*

[Commentary by Miguel Cabrera]

[Text] While the United States attempts to fortify the blockade it has maintained against Cuba for over 30 years, our country is strengthening its economic ties with other countries of the world, especially its Latin American neighbors.

The final document of the second meeting of the Cuba-Ecuador mixed inter-governmental commission, which dealt with economic, technical, and scientific cooperation, was recently signed in Havana. This document establishes cooperation in the areas of tourism, energy, communications, construction, and social security. The first steps are already being taken to organize a meeting between Ecuadoran businessmen and Cuban leaders who will evaluate the possibility of joint production, the creation of joint businesses, and the establishment of economic associations and technological aid. Added to the final document was a memorandum on customs agreements. Agreements on health and other issues were also approved.

Another example of the increasing ties between Cuba and Latin America were the negotiations that took place last week between the Cuban Chamber of Commerce and Colombian businessmen. The latter, in addition to talking with representatives of local institutions, visited production installations to see them firsthand. Among the main results of the businessmen's visit was the establishment of a joint business venture to produce fertilizers in Cuba.

According to reports, the field that offers the greatest prospects is tourism, which has been on the increase this year. It will expand even more once the direct flights planned between Havana and Bogota are established. Negotiations are already under way.

Cuba, an archipelago with almost 200 natural beaches, is currently exploiting 50 of them for tourism. The remaining beaches have remained untouched. Also planned is the creation of joint Cuban-Colombian ventures in such fields as textiles, paper, and equipment powered by solar energy.

Economic relations with Ecuador and Colombia are only the tip of the iceberg with regard to Cuba's ties to Latin America which, it seems, will be rapidly strengthened in the near future.

### Guantanamo Province PCC Secretary Replaced

*FL2904121492 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] The Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] provincial committee in Guantanamo has analyzed the Politburo's suggestion and has agreed to release Comrade Raul Michel Vargas from the post of first secretary of the committee, and has elected Comrade Eugenio Cuevas Ibanez as his replacement.

The provincial PCC committee recognized the selfless work done by Michel as head of the party committee for more than a decade and his personal contributions during this period to the development of the revolution's programs in the province.

At the same time, the committee plenum agreed with the Politburo's evaluation regarding subjective deficiencies which have become manifest in different areas of the province's economic and social management, and the appropriateness of making the suggested changes.

Central Committee member Comrade Raul Michel Vargas will move on to other duties as a party official.

### Further on Castro Interview During Alquizar Tour

*FL2804192292 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] Yesterday our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro toured areas of the Alquizar Miscellaneous Crops Enterprise and expressed an interest in the current status of the weeding and spring planting. At another point in his interview with reporter Mariela Diaz, Fidel talked about the future of the work force mobilized in the Havana region.

[Begin recording] [Diaz] The two years since many contingents were formed are almost up, and this is a

work force that must be renewed. What is going to happen when the two years are up?

[Castro] Two years have not yet elapsed. There are still a few months left, at least six months, and some contingents were formed even less than 18 months ago. Well, precisely, as you know, one of the fundamental pillars of this was the towns.

[Diaz] The agricultural communities....

[Castro, interrupting] And the towns have suffered the consequences of the fact that we are in a special period. However, we have made the towns a priority and are going to renew our efforts regarding these communities, to try to have at least a certain number of houses finished in a number of these communities; and we will try to, well, keep the contingents going as much as possible. We cannot build the towns as fast as we need to. So, we will depend on those who may be willing to continue in the contingents despite the lack of housing, and on those who may wish to renew, those who come forward to renew the contingents. I do not think we will lack personnel with which to renew the contingents.

[Diaz] Do you have a special message for the workers before 1 May, Commander?

[Castro] Well, a special message would be just to ask them to continue working as they have done up to now, and ask them to win the battle of spring planting to ensure the tubers, vegetables, and food for the off-months, and congratulate them especially for 1 May.

[Diaz] Thank you. [end recording]

## UJC Leaders Visit Cane-Harvesting Areas

*FL2804193692 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] Roberto Robaina and the other members of the national bureau of the UJC [Union of Young Communists] have been visiting the Augusto Cesar Sandino Sugar Growing Agroindustrial Complex in Mariel Municipality, Havana Province, since very early this morning. Here are the details.

They will spend the day at that complex sharing the difficult task of cutting cane with sugar harvesting youth work groups and talking with UJC leaders from the province's agroindustrial complexes and the provincial bureau. This will be just the beginning of a tour by Robertico Robaina and his troops on 7, 8, 14, 15, 23, and 24 May—through canefields, sugar mills, and sugar camps in Villa Clara, Matanzas, Holguin, Las Tunas, Camaguey, and Ciego de Avila Provinces, in that order.

UJC First Secretary Robaina has announced that while in the countryside, they will work with brigades that get very good results, as well as with some whose results are not so good, and that they will converse with people both young and not-so-young, UJC members and non-members, to find out how they think and what their concerns and commitments are in this final battle to complete the sugar harvest.

These exchanges will be very helpful in rounding off and setting in motion a broad-action program that will equally emphasize the sugarcane harvest emulation campaign and the many things that can be done by the various young peoples' shifts and work groups, including the rush project brigades and the BTJ [Technical Youth Brigades], to cite just two examples. The UJC leadership now insists on putting added emphasis on welcoming work forces that are helping other provinces finish the harvest, as well as on proper farewells. Indeed, activities to complete the sugar harvest must be the sugar workers' greatest celebration.

## Focus on Pinar del Rio Sugarcane Harvest

*FL2904020092 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] Pinar del Rio workers are working hard to overcome delays in the sugarcane harvest in the province. Reynaldo Peguero, a delegate of the Sugar Industry Ministry [Minaz] in Pinar del Rio, talked especially about this:

[Begin Peguero recording] Right now, a large number of youths have even joined in, inspired by the Union of Young Communists Congress and the call made by our commander in chief. More than 400 youths have joined in the efforts, in different ways, to weed the sugar fields. Outstanding results are being obtained.

In other regions of the province, a large number of mobilized workers have joined in to complete tobacco and tomato harvest tasks in all our farming centers. Therefore, the situation with the manual weeding of the sugar fields is now very different. We only have two problems left, one a very localized problem. It is at the Raul Sanchez Cooperative in La Palma, which we inspected yesterday along with members of the National Association of Small Farmers and the party. There, results are already being seen, thanks to mobilizations from other cooperatives and other entities of the region, and even from the members of the education sector who are going to mobilize to help this cooperative. [end recording]

Other measures are being taken in the province to increase the use of oxen in the sugar fields in case of heavy rains.

[Begin Pequero recording] We also have the help of Agriculture Ministry comrades who in the next few days are going to be delivering approximately 500 ox teams. This includes the ones provided by the Minaz and the ones that we are going to reassign from other tasks to use in the sugar harvest in case rains make it impossible to use tractors and combines. A great effort is being conducted in this to fulfill the guidelines issued by the

commander in chief, who said that it was a matter of honor for the Pinar del Rio workers to complete their harvest. [end recording]

Cooperative farmers are also joining in this effort through the 17 May operation by contributing to the most important tasks of the current sugarcane harvest in Cuba's easternmost province.

## Haiti

### Theodore Expects Approval of Washington Agreement

*FL2904004992 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Italicized passages in Creole]

[Excerpt] Rene Theodore, prime minister-designate within the framework of a negotiated solution to the Haitian crisis under OAS auspices, hopes that the meeting on Wednesday 29 April in the Villa D'Acceuil will lead to the ratification of the Washington agreement. Theodore emphasizes the need to reach a solution to help the country emerge from its crisis. Questioned about the position taken by some political sectors to prompt the government to resign, Theodore thinks it is necessary to wait for the results of the summit at Villa D'Acceuil before considering such a possibility. He also added that holding presidential elections would not solve the crisis.

[Begin recording] [Theodore] *First, it is clear that the meeting at Villa D'Acceuil will be about the Washington agreement. It is not going to be about elections because the meeting was called by the Haitian parliament, which had sent mandated parliamentarians to negotiate in Washington and had concluded a protocol agreement. Second, the crisis has a truly political character and is accepted as such. That it is a political crisis is accepted by all parties. The Haitian parliament is discussing with the government and with the Haitian Army, and all three are equal partners in their opinions of the crisis. They therefore accept it as a national, political crisis. Third, it is the first time they will all meet regarding the Washington agreement. I, therefore, expect that instead of a solution that would lead to possible elections—which would mean that the country would remain blocked under the embargo, and would continue to be destroyed—I tend to think, and I hope I am not mistaken, that the parliament will ratify the Washington agreement so we can emerge from the chaos and isolation we are in. [end recording]*

Rene Theodore has renewed his view that the Washington agreement should be ratified by parliament. He also believes that he would then become prime minister and restates that the formation of his government is on its way. He announces that some posts are still to be distributed, indicating that he is in touch with all sectors, especially the political parties which intend to be part of his consensus government.

Today, some sectors fear Rene Theodore's communist past. He reassures them that he does not intend to become prime minister to satisfy an ideological problem, but rather to rebuild the country.

[Begin recording] [Theodore] Society is in potential conflict regarding this question. That is why I often refer that question to public safety, calming (as heard) so that we reach a definite solution to the crisis. [passage omitted] [end recording]

### Invited To Visit Venezuela

*FL2804181992 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No 34.284 27 Apr 92 p 1*

[Text] Rene Theodore, prime minister-designate in the framework of the solution to the Haitian crisis negotiated under OAS auspices, has been invited by President Carlos Andres Perez to go to Caracas on 2 May.

During an interview this morning with a member of the press, Mr. Theodore stated that the goal of his trip would be to discuss with the Venezuelan president "the resumption of bilateral cooperation between Venezuela and Haiti, the reincorporation of Haiti in the San Jose Agreement, and the current situation in the region."

Questioned about the presence of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide at the meetings, Rene Theodore replied: "I do not know if he will be there, but I hope so".

Mr. Theodore was not able to respond to the first invitation that he received for Holy Week when Haitian political leaders Victor Benoit and Marc Bazin visited Caracas.

### De Ronceray Optimistic About Tripartite Meeting

*FL2804233092 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Excerpts] Various sectors are optimistic on the eve of the tripartite meeting to resolve the Haitian crisis. The meeting will involve the parliament, the executive, and the Army. The party for the Mobilization of National Development, MDN, has reacted positively to the summit in Villa D'Acceuil which will begin tomorrow, 29 April, in the hope that this meeting will come up with a national solution. For Hubert de Ronceray, MDN leader, this solution must comply with the Haitian Constitution and laws. De Ronceray has also stated that the time has come to relieve the crisis that has already created so many victims and continues to destroy the national economy. [passage omitted]

Hubert de Ronceray restated his opposition to the Washington agreement, considering that the document is stillborn; while hailing the decision of the Court of Cassation declaring it inoperative. Hubert de Ronceray finds international cooperation necessary, but believes that it must be conducted with mutual respect. [passage omitted]

## CONACOM Urges Popular Mobilization 29 Apr

*FL2804225/92 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2000 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] A few hours before the tripartite meeting of the Army, parliament, and the executive, the National Congress of Democratic Movements, CONACOM, is sending out a warning about the possible failure of these negotiations. CONACOM is calling on the population, in its entire diversity and throughout the country, to mobilize on 29 April at 1600 GMT for a large drum concert. This demonstration will accompany the parliamentarians to the negotiations and send a warning to the Honorat/Nerette government.

In case of failure of these negotiations, CONACOM points out that a change of strategy will be necessary to find the means of peaceful, constitutional solutions, beyond the institutions.

## Radio Views Events, Criticizes Parliamentarians

*FL2904140692 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] In less than three days, the foremost Haitian leaders, specifically the executive, the parliament, and the Army will announce the results of their meetings on the country's crisis which are scheduled for the next two days, that is 29 and 30 April. These important meetings will take place at a time when everyone believes the country can no longer survive this crisis; a seven-month old crisis that might not have reached its current condition had all the institutions in the country assumed their responsibilities from the very beginning.

One of the institutions which everyone considers more responsible for this situation is the parliament, which did nothing important when it had the power to do so at the beginning of the crisis. For seven months, the offices of various parliamentary blocs have continuously called for meetings but have not managed to have enough deputies to allow them to make decisions during the sessions. Meanwhile, time is passing; the people are suffering; the people are waiting, and the state continues to pay all parliamentarians, including those who have not gone to parliament in the past seven months.

Like the executive and judiciary, the parliament is one of three state powers designated to assist the population in obtaining a better standard of living and specifically designed to help the country progress on the path of democracy. That democracy may have many problems in being established if, as the parliament does, one of the institutions does not assume its responsibilities. On that score, we invite you to listen to an analysis by our colleague Franckel Valentin on the parliament's attitude in view of the country's political crisis.

[Begin Valentin recording] A country, that wants democracy, must have institutions aimed at guaranteeing and reinforcing democracy. These institutions include the judiciary, the parliament, the executive, and the Army. The security, the operations, and the independence of these institutions must be guaranteed so democracy can be established. The people involved in these institutions must work with virtue, honesty, dignity, and without bias. They must have a sense of responsibility and competence. Without these qualities, the efforts to establish democracy may not yield positive results.

The democratic realities place all citizens in the same situation with regard to justice and law, while requiring competence and willingness from officials with state powers. A country where the officials are lethargic, where they do not want or refuse to do their jobs, or where they refuse to carry out their obligations is a sick country.

In modern democracy, the parliament is given more importance at this time. It is even said in some places that if there is no parliament, one cannot speak of democracy. Take for example what happened in Peru. President Alberto Fujimori dissolved the parliament and automatically democracy lost its footing. This small example shows the importance of a country's parliament. It is sad to see today in Haiti that most of the parliamentarians, who had received the people's vote of confidence to do a job, refused to do that job.

It is difficult to note all the steps that are being taken and have been taken to gather parliamentarians for a session at the Chamber. Very often, even too often, there are not enough deputies or senators for a quorum in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Republic. This is a very sad situation for a country in crisis. The worst thing is that parliamentarians have left for seven months and have never come back.

Wisdom says that people responsible to judge and control must first be a judge of and control themselves because they are supposed to set a good example. When someone gets paid for a job and does not do the job, that is called corruption. That is called embezzlement because there is more than one kind of corruption and embezzlement.

Haitians may be surprised to learn how much the parliament costs the Haitian state each month. Nevertheless, such things are happening again and again. Did the authors of the Constitution make a mistake when they did not provide for sanctions against parliamentarians who are in place but refuse to come to the Chamber to work; parliamentarians who have a monopoly on control and watch what is going on in the state but against whom no punishment has been provided for in this respect?

To establish democracy in Haiti, all citizens must perform their mission properly. We hope our parliamentarians will understand this mission and will ungrudgingly allow the sun to rise in every place where there is darkness so that the light of respect and democracy can really shine on Haiti. [end recording]

## Pemex Issues Communique on Guadalajara Explosion

*PA2804144692 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 27 Apr 92*

[Text] Mexican Petroleum [Pemex] will provide 100 billion pesos to the trust fund for rebuilding Guadalajara.

Pemex issued a communique promising to provide all the data, reports, documents, and technical help required to clearly establish responsibility for the explosion there, in accordance with the law.

As one of the parties responsible for the disaster in Guadalajara, Pemex stated it will double security measures at its installations in the area and, in particular, will double efforts to clean-up the affected area to assure the prompt elimination of contaminants.

The communique stated that, on presidential instructions, Pemex will form a special technical task force with the Secretariat of Urban Development & Ecology. The two institutions will establish national standards and norms to guarantee the highest levels of security and environmental protection.

## Pemex Reports Increased Oil Extraction

*PA2204211092 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0052 GMT 22 Apr 92*

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The government-affiliated Mexican Petroleum (Pemex) has announced that the modernization process it set in motion has allowed the company to increase the amount of crude it has extracted over the past five years by 10 percent.

According to a Pemex report, during 1991 alone an average of 2,675,852 barrels of oil were extracted daily, a situation that established the company's solidity and competitiveness, as well as its considerable influence on the country's economic development.

Consequently, Pemex said, during the 1987-1991 period, the processing of crude and gas liquids and condensates at the petrochemical plants increased by 12 percent, going from 1,406,000 to 1,579,300 barrels daily.

Meanwhile, the government-affiliated company's national refineries system increased by 13.9 percent the production of raw materials from heavy Maya crude, which releases light oils that can be purchased at better prices on the export market.

During this period, Pemex increased the daily production of oil by-products by 13 percent at its industrial centers, going from 1,393,000 in 1987, to 1,605,000 barrels by the end of 1991.

During the period in question, the acquisition of petrochemical raw materials rose by 40 percent, going from 13,603,000 tons to over 18 million tons.

The Pemex report indicates that over the past five years the production of gas condensates and liquids improved, enabling the company to increase its supply on the national market by 34 percent.

Meanwhile, petrochemical exports increased from 194,200 tons in 1987 to 972,300 tons in 1991.

Pemex managed to decrease its total operating expenses in real terms, thanks to the level of investments in the country, which in 1991 were 15 percent higher than in 1990.

According to the report, over the past five years the output generated by the government-affiliated company rose to almost $38 billion, of which almost $33 billion were used to pay the taxes demanded by the state treasury.

The remainder of the money, $5 billion, was used to form capital, due to which investments increased during that period by almost $8 billion, derived from the savings obtained and the levels of efficiency achieved.

Furthermore, during the period in question the institution contributed $30 billion in freely convertible foreign currency for payment of part of the foreign debt through Bank of Mexico reserves and public and private imports.

## * Banrural Explains Farm Debt, Credit Accords

*92CA0139A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 27 Mar 92 p 18*

[Text of undated "Banrural Reports" document on past-due farm loan adjustment and new credit agreements]

[Text]

### Background

### The Modernization of the Mexican Countryside

In response to peasant farmers' demands for freedom so that they can make their own efforts to better themselves, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has promoted the most sweeping change in the past 50 years in economic relations among peasant farmers and between them and the government and others involved in rural development.

For three years now the government has been reorienting its functions and revamping its activities as the guiding force in development so as to rid its institutions of bureaucracy and paternalism.

In 1991, Article 27 of the constitution was amended and a new Agrarian Law was enacted. This law broadens the scope of freedoms in the countryside to eliminate obstacles to work, to better the utilization of resources, and to improve the flow of investment capital and technologies that can enhance the profitability and production efficiency of agricultural activities.

The policy that the Government of the Republic is pursuing to promote freedom with social responsibility in the Mexican countryside has thus acquired a new dimension.

This past 14 November the Government of the Republic implemented the program "10 Points for Freedom and Justice in the Mexican Countryside." It gives priority to the battle against agrarian backwardness, calls for additional and mounting budgetary funds to bolster infrastructure, technology, credit, insurance, and marketing in the countryside, and resolves the problem of the growers' past-due loan portfolio with Banrural.

The following are the details of this solution:

"We cannot have a general write-off because that would be unfair to those who have paid up and insulting to those who have not.

"The past-due loan portfolio is being removed from Banrural.

"The peasant farmers whom the Solidarity Program has been taking care of and who cannot pay will see their portfolio shift to the Solidarity Program, which will decide the method of settlement through labor or cooperation and will finance these ejido members.

"Those who require a longer term or prompt payment at a discount will see their portfolios transferred to a trust outside Banrural so that they can be settled and so that they can become qualified borrowers who can again have financing available."

Inasmuch as some peasant-farmer organizations have expressed concern about the conditions under which Banrural is carrying out the program, we are reporting the following to the interested parties and to the public:

**1. Process of Transferring Banrural's Past-Due Loan Portfolio**

**1.1 Classification of Past-Due Loan Portfolio**

The Federal Government has defined the criteria and guidelines for transferring the past-due portfolio of crop- and equipment-secured loans for the Autumn-Winter 1990-91 Growing Season and previous ones, as well as the farm loans past-due as of 14 November 1991.

According to these guidelines, the past-due loans of ejido producers in areas of low yield and recurring crop failures are being transferred to the National Solidarity Program (Pronasol), whereas the debts of the producers from the social sector with usable production potential are being transferred to the Trust Program for the Administration and Restructuring of Banrural's Past-Due Loan Portfolio (Fircaven), which has been created for this purpose.

The division of Banrural's past-due loan portfolio entails a heavy fiscal sacrifice in the form of the remission of principal and interest payments that Pronasol and Fircaven are offering to ejido producers and indigenous communities, which will have to pay only between 20 and 40 percent of their funded debt, in accordance with the classification of their indebtedness.

The aim that the Government of the Republic is pursuing with this measure is to enable debtors in the social sector to have access to the new options for organization, association, and investment that the new Agrarian Law provides without their past-due loans weighing them down.

**1.2 Treatment of Debts**

The treatment of the past-due portfolio transferred to Pronasol includes substantial remissions and options for payment in cash or in the form of labor that benefits the community. Pronasol will determine the most appropriate choices in each case.

Fircaven is handling the loan portfolio that has been turned over to it as follows:

a) Debtors from the 1988-89 autumn-winter growing season and previous ones are granted a remission of 80 percent of their funded principal and interest debt.

For example, an ejido that owes 53.5 million pesos in principal and interest from the 1988 spring-summer growing season will have to pay only 10.7 million over a period of 120 days, interest free. If it chooses to pay over a longer term, the remissions will be the same (it will owe only 10.7 million pesos), but it will have to pay interest at the regular rates during the period that has been agreed upon, which can be a maximum of 10 years.

b) The producers who were unable to pay off their loans from the 1989 spring-summer growing season to the 1990-91 autumn-winter growing season are excused from paying regular interest and penalties and are granted a remission of 60 percent of the principal.

For example, if the borrower owes 310.3 million pesos from the 1989 spring-summer growing season, he gets a remission of 246.5 million (79.4 percent of the funded debt). If he pays within 120 days, interest will not be charged for that period; if he chooses to pay over a period not to exceed 10 years, he will pay interest at the usual rates.

c) The producers who did not meet their loan obligations, even though they were able to do so, will pay 100 percent of the principal due, but neither regular interest nor penalties will be charged to them as long as they pay up the principal over a period not exceeding 120 days.

For example, a borrower from the 1988 spring-summer growing season who owes 112.8 million pesos in principal and interest will save 77 million (68.1 percent of his total debt).

In the event that these producers decide to restructure their long-term debt, Fircaven will ask them for a first

payment equal to at least 10 percent, with the balance payable over a maximum period of five years, during which interest will accrue at the regular rate.

In the previous example they would have to pay 3.6 million pesos right away.

**1.3 Status Report on the Transfer of the Past-Due Loan Portfolio**

As of 20 March 1992 the Banrural System, which consists of 12 regional banks, had transferred the portfolios of 822,000 debtors, totaling 3.821 trillion pesos, 88 percent of the total.

**a) Portfolio Transferred to Pronasol**

The portfolios of 419,000 producers, representing 812 billion pesos, have been transferred; this is equal to 76 percent of the estimated total to be transferred to this program.

The transfers of crop- and equipment-secured loans have concluded in the states of Sonora, Baja California, Chihuahua, Durango, Coahuila, Zacatecas, Jalisco, Guanajuato, Queretaro, Mexico, Michoacan, Guerrero, Tabasco, Chiapas, Veracruz, Puebla, Tlaxcala, Morelos, Hidalgo, and Oaxaca, and the process will be completed in the remaining states before this coming 31 March.

**b) Portfolio Transferred to Fircaven**

By the same date the overdue accounts of 403,000 debtors, representing 3.09 trillion pesos, had been transferred there; this comes to 91 percent of the total.

The process of transferring the crop- and equipment-secured loans has been concluded in the states of Sonora, Baja California, Chihuahua, Durango, Zacatecas, Nuevo Leon, Baja California Sur, Nayarit, Sinaloa, Jalisco, Colima, Guanajuato, Queretaro, Mexico, Veracruz, Tabasco, Chiapas, and Oaxaca, and the process will be completed in the remaining ones by 31 March.

Eighty-one percent of the total past-due loan portfolio transferred to Fircaven is owed by borrowers who, for reasons beyond their control, did not earn sufficient income to cover their debts. Another 15 percent is owed by producers who, having had the money to pay, even if partially, failed to meet their obligations. The remaining four percent corresponds to borrowers whose payment history justified dunning through commercial channels. The bank granted them an extension to give them an opportunity to work out an agreement with Fircaven for the payment of their debts.

**1.4 Follow-up on the Process**

An agreement was reached with the Permanent Agrarian Congress (CAP) that before the end of March 1992 task forces would be established to follow up on the loan restructuring process. These task forces will resolve doubts about and disagreements with the classification of the portfolios and will look into the most appropriate ways of making credit available once again to second-degree borrowers who have past-due loans.

A central group will be formed with representatives of producers organizations and officials from the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources (SARH), Fircaven, and Banrural, and specific groups will be set up in the states where they are deemed appropriate.

**2. Farm Loans**

**2.1 Making Producers Eligible for Institutional Loans Again**

In order for debtors whose portfolios have been transferred to pay up and once again have access to Banrural credit as soon as possible, the SARH, Fircaven, and Banrural are engaged in a process of consensus-building with the Permanent Agrarian Congress.

The following agreements have been reached on the rules for making them eligible again:

In order for producers who have been transferred to Pronasol to be eligible for credit again, they must submit projects that will enable the loans to be paid off. To this end an attempt will be made to pool resources through public investment, Pronasol, FIRCO [Trust for Shared Risk], or other institutions.

Banrural is processing the loan applications of those producers who chose to pay off their entire debt to Fircaven. In the case of those who may choose to pay over a longer term, the bank must have a letter of priority [letter signed by a creditor giving priority to the claim of another over his own] from Fircaven in order to accept their loan application.

In the instances in which the negotiations are under way but have not concluded, the producers may receive a letter of commitment by making the minimum cash payment that they agree upon with the trust.

The loan applications that Banrural receives from these producers will be evaluated as follows:

a) The producers who on occasion failed to comply with their loan obligations for reasons attributable to them must meet the following requirements:

- They must have viable projects.
- They must offer sufficient collateral.
- If they have agreed to discharge their debts to Fircaven over a long term, they must also have paid an amount equivalent to the first year's payment.

b) Under the agreement, producers who have repeatedly failed to comply with their obligations will not have access to Banrural credit if they have used the loan for purposes other than the one indicated in the agreement or if they do not acknowledge loans whose disbursement has been verified.

### 2.2 Treatment of Borrowers Who Have Paid up

The Banrural System appreciates the efforts of producers who have paid their debts in timely fashion. Therefore, it will implement the following measures to set them apart and give them preferential treatment:

- Preferential treatment in accepting and approving loan applications and in the use of credit.
- Priority in access to banking services, technical assistance, training, and other complementary services.
- Banrural will give them a letter addressed to the SARH so that the incentives that this secretariat offers go to them on a preferential basis.
- Banrural will establish identification procedures that will make them eligible for simplified formalities at the bank.

### 2.3 1992 Loan Program

Banrural plans to lend 4.8 trillion pesos in 1992 to finance farm, livestock, agro-industrial, and other activities characteristic of the rural sector.

Twenty-nine percent of this amount has been budgeted to provide capital for production units through farm loans. The remaining 71 percent will be earmarked for crop- and equipment-secured loans for farming and ranching.

### 2.4 Banrural's Lending Policy

From the outset of the present administration Banrural has made a series of structural changes involving the design and implementation of the Program To Modernize and Strengthen the Institution.

The program has turned development loans into a more effective and timely instrument for developing the countryside by tying them to production needs and making them a recoverable resource.

This lending policy has made it possible to:

- Grant development loans to producers with production potential in order to encourage them to make better use of their resources.
- Further self-management among producers by transferring production and commercial responsibilities to them.
- Improve the institutional handling of credit by dealing in cash, on an individual basis, and through local branches so that lending procedures are transparent.

The Banrural System seeks to offer all types of loans and financial services, based on sound banking practices, to meet the wide range of financing needs of Mexico's countryside.

The ultimate goal is to have producers earn greater income, improve their living conditions, and raise capital for their production units.

The division of Banrural's past-due loan portfolio facilitates the transition to the framework of economic relations promoted by the new legislation arising from Article 27 of the constitution and, above all, creates the conditions, through major fiscal sacrifices, for a sound, transparent, stable, and long-term future relationship between Banrural and its customers.

## Costa Rica

### Chamorro, Calderon Sign Environmental Accord

*PA2504201892 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Apr 92*

[Text] The presidents of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, Violeta Chamorro and Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, respectively, on 23 April signed a joint declaration pledging to improve the environmental standards of their respective peoples and guarantee the preservation of natural resources.

This declaration coincided with the beginning of the international conference of countries cooperating with the binational project [words indistinct].

President Violeta Chamorro and her Costa Rican counterpart Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier on 23 April inaugurated in San Jose, Costa Rica, the international conference of countries cooperating with the binational project of the Integrated System of Protected Areas for Peace, SI-A-PAZ.

This project is supported by the presidents of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, who signed an agreement on protected border areas, declaring the project SI-A-PAZ the most [words indistinct] program of preservation and sustained development for both countries.

SI-A-PAZ currently has the cooperation of countries such as the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, England, Spain, and Norway.

Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro said that her presence at the event in Costa Rica, which will last two days, demonstrates her willingness to continue supporting the SI-A-PAZ project, because it guarantees the reconciliation of man with his ecological surroundings.

[Begin Chamorro recording] Today, we reaffirm the agreement that the presidents of Costa Rica and Nicaragua reached during the summit of Central American presidents [words indistinct] Puntarenas in December of 1990.

There, we agreed to join efforts to promote social and economic development along our common border to benefit those residents who have directly or indirectly suffered the hardships of civil war. On the Nicaraguan side of the border, the population [words indistinct] lives peacefully amid democracy, thanks to the effort of national reconciliation being promoted by my administration and the support given by the international community. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier stated that the future generations of Nicaragua and Costa Rica have hopes in [words indistinct] through the preservation of the land, which must not be lost because SI-A-PAZ will achieve that objective.

[Begin Calderon recording] Our descendants [words indistinct] will be many more than what we are today. We will need more water, more land, more wood, more medicine, and more food. We cannot fail them. [Words indistinct] of the environment and development encompasses the principal concerns of our times on population, industrialization, urban development, social and economic inequalities, the spread of poverty, and technology, among others. The questions are important. How can we maintain a planet even more populated?

The execution of global programs and binational and multinational cooperation projects fall within this framework. I am referring to cooperation in favor of sustained development, cooperation with our children, and cooperation with our grandchildren. [end recording]

In addition, both presidents signed a joint declaration pledging to seek ways to improve the quality of life of their respective peoples, as well as to guarantee the preservation of natural resources. [Words indistinct] Nicaraguan president and the foreign ministers of Nicaragua and Costa Rica visited the Foreign Relations Ministry in San Jose, where they signed a diplomatic cooperation agreement to implement joint programs for training, updating, and perfecting the personnel of both foreign ministries.

## El Salvador

### FMLN Cites Law Reform for Demobilization Halt

*PA2804150392 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] There was considerable reaction on 27 April to reformation of the Security Institutions Law approved on 23 April by the Legislative Assembly. The first strong reaction came from the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. The FMLN has suspended troop demobilization until the purpose of the reforms is explained. The FMLN believes the National Guard and Treasury Police's structure will remain intact with these reforms.

Roberto Canas, a member of the insurgents' political commission, asserted that the temporary suspension of the FMLN demobilization is to ensure fulfillment of the agreements. The FMLN announcement came after the Legislative Assembly's government faction approved the reformation of the Security Institutions Law. Canas said the reforms are clearly a step backward for peace; he said the four rebel contingents that have not yet gathered at the meeting points will wait until a satisfactory solution is reached.

[Begin Canas recording] Our troops gathered on 23 April without any problem. The 25 and 26 April demobilizations, however, are pending, and have been temporarily suspended. The General Command will evaluate the situation before a definitive decision is made. [end recording]

FMLN Commander Gerson Martinez is of the opinion that the decree reforming the law by which the security

institutions were created, is the same one the government commission presented at the negotiations, to perpetuate the National Guard and Treasury Police. The government's new position, Martinez said, hinders the peace process.

[Begin Martinez recording] The regime is now resorting to legal loopholes, not to advance the great military reform that was to lead to democratization but, on the contrary, to promote a counterreform. This may be the government's first step backward. Until now there had been a number of delays and violations, but this is truly a step backward; we are moving backward like a crab. [end recording]

The FMLN warns that despite the elimination of the National Guard and Treasury Police's public security duties, the same structure will be retained with their replacement by the Civil National Police, which is not what was agreed on.

### Cristiani Comments on Reform

*PA2804192892 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] During a news conference on 27 April, President Alfredo Cristiani stated that the reforms of the law regulating the security corps do not contradict the New York Agreements but—on the contrary—are a strict interpretation of them. Cristiani confirmed the evolution of the National Guard into Border Police and the Treasury Police into Military Police.

[Begin Cristiani recording] The agreements specify that the National Guard and Treasury Police will be eliminated as public security corps, and that their troops will become part of the Army. [end recording]

Cristiani explained that there has been some confusion regarding the recent legislative decree that reformed the law regulating the creation of the National Guard and the Treasury Police. For Cristiani, of the more than 10,000 members that make up the National Guard, only 2,013 will form part of the new Army unit, which will also include some former Treasury Police.

[Begin Cristiani recording] The unit to be created, whose functions consist of being a border patrol and military police, will have only 2,013 members. We are complying with the spirit of the agreements, especially with regard to the part stating that these two units would not continue to have public security functions and that their present structures would be transformed into this new structure. [end recording]

The guerrillas maintain that only the functions of the National Guard and the Treasury Police have been reformed and that their structures remain intact.

[Begin Cristiani recording] It is time to stop introducing new reasons or excuses to avoid completing the troop concentration. I believe...[pauses] we believe the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] must reconsider this position. We know that the United Nations is requesting a meeting with the FMLN to ask them for explanations and to urge them to put an end to that situation. [end recording]

Cristiani recognized that former members of the National Guard and the Treasury Police have joined the National Police because the National Police needs a great number of personnel to meet all its obligations. Cristiani denied that Army troops have been deployed in zones that are presently being occupied by the guerrillas. Three months after signing the peace agreements, Cristiani stated that it is necessary to begin to adjust the schedule that was agreed on in order to meet the established deadlines.

Despite all the delays, the mutual accusations about violation of the agreements, and the war of words between the government and the FMLN, Cristiani said he believes that the schedule established is not negotiable. He has stated that, at least as far as the government is concerned, by 31 October the schedule will have been implemented word by word.

### Opposition Rejects Reforms

*PA2804223592 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 25 Apr 92 p 5*

[Text] On the evening of 23 April, the Legislative Assembly surprisingly approved reforms to the law that created the National Guard and Treasury Police, eliminating their public security duties.

The ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] faction's vote was supported by the MAC [Authentic Christian Movement] and PCN [National Conciliation Party]. The opposition rejected the reforms, arguing that they violate the peace agreements and pointing out that it was an abuse on ARENA's part to "change the agenda at nightfall, thereby taking everyone by surprise."

The government's intention to maintain the institutional structures of the National Guard and Treasury Police was described by the UDN [National Democratic Union] and [Democratic] Convergence as a lack of resolve to eliminate these security forces, in accordance with the peace agreements.

Fidel Chavez Mena and Gerardo Le Chevalier of the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] said the government's action "implies that, in the future, these forces may, through another reform, carry out public security functions. "It shows the government's intentions," they said, stressing their opposition to the reforms.

Ruben Zamora, Hector Silva, Juan Jose Martell, Jorge Villacorta, and Rolando Campos of the [Democratic] Convergence, said the government's attitude constitutes a "provocation."

FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] Commander Roberto Roca asked the government to change its position and contribute to the consolidation of

the peace process, which is the most important issue at the moment. Roca underscored that the agreements seek profound social transformations, not cosmetic transformations like the reforms in question.

### Handal: Peace Depends on Government

*PA2904001992 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Report by David Rivas]

[Excerpt] Commander Jorge Shafik Handal spoke during a news conference of the Salvadoran rebel commanders at noon on 28 April at a hotel in San Salvador. With regard to the land problem, Handal demanded that the government begin to transfer land to former combatants and establish programs as stipulated in the agreements to facilitate the reintegration into civilian life of former FMLN combatants.

Commander Handal also protested that thus far the Army has not presented an inventory or a report on the location of each paramilitary post, in other words, the civil defense groups throughout the country.

With regard to the demobilization process, Handal stressed: The demobilization depends on the government. We have said that if they do not comply, we will decide what to do with the 20 percent [to be demobilized]. We are not going to proceed blindly. In that manner, Handal replied to a question concerning the first contingent of FMLN combatants that according to the peace agreements should be demobilized on 1 May.

[Begin Handal recording] The fact that there have been no clashes here, that there has been no shooting during the past 90 days, has created the impression that everything has been going well, despite some understandable delays, particularly in such a complex peace agreement and such a tight timetable. In reality, we are not facing simple delays. We are facing noncompliance and in some cases very serious violations.

The area most affected concerns military reform. The high military commanders are directing and promoting noncompliance with the agreements and are responsible for the manuevers that are being conducted in this field.

Examples of this are the National Guard [GN] and the Treasury Police [PH]. Their names were changed, and now surprisingly a law was passed through the Legislative Assembly, which was forced to act against the agreements under the most effective pressure in our country: military pressure. Our country continues to face the problem of militarization. We still have militarism, and our country is in need of demilitarization. That law, which was recently approved, was issued in view of what was happening in New York. It was approved because things were being viewed in New York in the same way we see them with regard to the GN and the PH. They decided to introduce a new factor. They decided to have one of the government branches support their position. What is the meaning of the law reforming the organic laws of the GN and PH? Why reform the GN and PH organic laws? Why is it necessary to have organic laws of bodies that must disband and the members of which should join the Army? Should those bodies not be covered under Army laws?

All this is painful. It is very sad to see President Cristiani supporting this vulgar and coarse maneuver. [end recording] [passage omitted]

## Guatemala

### President Serrano Reshuffles Cabinet Advisers

*PA2804180692 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1712 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 Apr (NOTIMEX)—National Palace sources reported on 28 April that Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias has ordered changes in his health, culture, development, and energy and mines ministers, among other officials.

Guatemalan Vice President Gustavo Espina Salaguero told NOTIMEX there are political and operational reasons for changes in several ministries and secretariats.

Health Minister Miguel Angel Montepeque will be replaced by Eusebio del Cid and Urban and Rural Development Minister Manuel Bendfeldt will be replaced by Ricardo Castillo Sinibaldi.

Culture Minister Audelio Castillo Barajas will be replaced by Eunice Lima Shaul and Energy and Mines Minister Carlos Leonel Urtarde will be replaced by Cesar Fernandez.

Manuel Conde Orellana, who had been secretary general of the Presidency, will be left in charge of the peace negotiations with the guerrillas. He will be head of the government delegation and his secretariat post will be assumed by Audelio Castillo Barajas.

Julio Daniel Aleman will become secretary of specific affairs of the Presidency. He replaces Audelio Castillo Barajas who, in addition to being culture minister, was secretary of specific affairs.

Guillermo Gonzalez returns to the post of private secretary of the Presidency, a post he had left after taking office as deputy of the ruling Solidarity Action Movement (MAS) in the Central American Parliament.

It was learned that President Jorge Serrano officially will swear in the new officials on 30 April.

Outgoing Health Minister Miguel Angel Montepeque said that President Serrano decided to remove him after disagreements emerged during the MAS national assembly last year.

Montepeque is MAS assistant secretary general and will return to his seat in the national Congress.

Vice President Espina denied that these changes are evidence of "cracks" in the government.

### Presidents Serrano, Callejas Sign Communique

*PA2904041792 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] The presidents of Guatemala and Honduras on 28 April issued a joint communique after the conclusion of the Honduran president's visit to our country. Presidents Jorge Serrano and Rafael Leonardo Callejas signed this communique along with a free trade, investment, and economic integration agreement. The two presidents voiced their profound concern over a proposal adopted recently by the EEC and forwarded to its Council of Ministers regarding banana imports that could jeopardize Latin American exports of one of the region's main products.

In this regard they urged the EEC's Council of Ministers to reconsider this unilateral measure that could restrict our banana exports, because it is not in keeping with commitments the EEC acquired, with liberalization agreements adopted at the Uruguay round of GATT talks, and with GATT norms and guidelines.

The two presidents voiced their concern over the serious problem posed by the production, marketing, and consumption of illicit drugs, narcotics, and psychotropic substances, and the increase in their trafficking. They underscored the grave social and economic consequences that these criminal actions are provoking. As a result they decided to intensify efforts to combat such activities. They reaffirmed that given the fact that this problem affects producer, consumer, and transit countries, the struggle against drug trafficking requires the shared responsibility of the affected governments, especially those of countries with the highest consumption rates. In this regard they pointed out the urgent need to control chemical substances that could be used to produce illegal consumption drugs.

Serrano and Callejas voiced their concern over developments in Latin America that undermine democratic institutionality. They voiced support for efforts being made at the hemispheric level, through the United Nations, based on resolutions issued at that organization. They pointed out that governments and peoples must find solutions to their conflicts.

President Callejas reaffirmed his unwavering support for President Serrano's firm determination to bring to a happy ending the talks—which are part of his total peace plan—between representatives of his government and armed rebel groups to end domestic disturbances in Guatemala.

The two presidents reaffirmed the importance of the development and integration of the Guatemala-Honduras Atlantic border area along the Honduran Gulf. They stressed the need for this process to lead to growth of the area's productive capability,upgrading of the living conditions of most of its residents, greater binational integration, conservation of its natural resources, cultural heritage, and improvement of the environment.

Serrano and Callejas voiced their satisfaction with a memorandum of understanding that their communications ministers signed on 28 April that mentions the progress achieved by their high-level commissions tasked with the construction of the Atlantic Coast route and repair of the roads that join the border towns of Agua Caliente and El Florido.

### Students Protest Urban Bus Fare Increases

*PA2704232292 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1834 GMT 27 Apr 92*

[Text] Guatemala, 27 April (NOTIMEX)—It was reported in Guatemala City today that dozens of persons were wounded and five students arrested during a protest at Central Institute against an increase in the urban transportation bus fare.

The protest march was organized by students opposed to the increases in the urban transportation bus fare decreed by the government and the increase in violence in Guatemala. The protest resulted in damage to commercial advertisement posters, the windows of several buildings, and three buses.

Leaders of the High School Students' Coordinating Group told NOTIMEX they are demanding that President Jorge Elias Serrano withdraw his public transportation fare increase or they will return to the streets once more "to carry out more actions".

They called upon the authorities to punish the persons responsible for the murder of a university student that occurred on Friday 10 April, when a special police commando unit entered the former university medical faculty and shot several students.

During the protest march, the students violently attacked three buses with rocks and clubs, which resulted in injuries to the passengers and the bus driver.

Municipal firefighters were able to evacuate the passengers from the buses. At the same time, a presidential motorcade was sent to pick up Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, who is currently on an official tour of Guatemala.

The National Police arrested five students, who were identified as Marlon Cifuentes Figueroa, 18; David Chicoy, 16; Osvaldo Cifuentes Figueroa, 16; Jorge Pacheco, 16; and Carlos Subuyu, 18. They were all taken to police headquarters.

The police and finance guards intimidated journalists who were covering the student protest. One of the journalists even received death threats.

## Nicaragua

### Rebels Occupy Government Installations in Rivas

*PA2804212192 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] The mayor's office and the installations of TELCOR [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute] and Radio Rumbos in Rivas were occupied on the morning of 28 April by rebels. The rebels are threatening to block traffic to Costa Rica if by 1530 on 28 April the government does not officially commit itself to respecting the agreements signed several months ago.

Meanwhile the roads to Yali, La Concordia, and San Rafael del Norte are still blocked.

### * Miami-Based 'Somozist' Group Discussed

*92CA0135A Managua EL SEMANARIO in Spanish 19-26 Mar 92 pp 16, 17*

[Text] Somozism had been regarded as a problem that Nicaragua had altogether surmounted. This stood to reason; terror had buried itself on its own. Yet the structure of UNO [National Opposition Union] as an alliance and the method of election by slates in the National Assembly and the Municipal Councils allowed a reactionary to emerge here and there.

Do you think that the reactionaries are trying to organize? That they are seeking to return to power? That they want to pull off big deals like before? And even that they want to have their own police force?

EL SEMANARIO wrote this feature article after an exhaustive investigation in Miami and Managua into the wheeling and dealing that is going on around Somozism; we thus provide answers to some of these questions.

#### Somozism Organizing From Miami

The Liberal Party of Nicaragua [PLN] has reportedly organized two task forces. One is in the city of Miami and consists of Jose Leon Sanchez, who serves as its secretary, backed by Aaron Tukler, a physician linked to Somozism; Silvio Arguello Cardenal, a former Somozist vice president; and Ramiro Abaunza Salinas, the Somoza family's personal physician. They have a propaganda and publicity team, LA ESTRELLA, a Nicaraguan exile paper that is run by Nicolas Lopez Maltes and distributed in the major U.S. cities where there is a large Nicaraguan population, and several advertising firms owned by Cubans such as Armando Perez Rouray and Tomas Regalado, among others.

#### Somozism in Nicaragua

The other task force is reportedly in Nicaragua and is made up of Lorenzo Guerrero Mora, an adviser to Arnoldo Aleman; Jose Rizo, the secretary of international relations of the Managua mayor's office; Alceo Tablada Solis, who reportedly travels between Miami and Managua; Francisco Urcuyo de Rivas, and a Mr. Suazo, who is allegedly from Grenada. They have presumably been coordinating political activities to further the candidacy of Mayor Arnoldo Aleman.

#### Cuban-American Politicians and Luis Pallais' Wife

The mayor of West Miami, Armando Reboredo; the mayor of Miami, Javier Suarez; the mayor of Hialeah, Julio Martinez; along with Republican Senator Ileana Ross Lethinen, and Commissioner Miriam Alonso are in charge of lobbying senators, congressmen, and other political figures in Washington to secure U.S. support for the presidential aspirations of the Managua mayor.

The material backing that has been provided consists of stationery, computers, filing cabinets.... The Liberals in exile presumably feel that the most important thing is to gain U.S. Government support for the Liberal Party with a view towards future elections in Nicaragua.

The link between the Liberal Party of Nicaragua and these individuals is Nadia Leets, the wife of Luis Pallais; she serves as the spokeswoman for the Miami mayor's office.

#### One Who Fell

Oscar Moncada Reyes has reportedly maintained that the Liberal Party in exile has received U.S. support and that Arnoldo Aleman supposedly has been approved as a presidential candidate, inasmuch as there is currently no viable alternative for American interests in the region. Moncada Reyes, a native of Masatepe, had presumably been involved in the Somozist plans from his post in BAVINIC [Housing Bank of Nicaragua], which is attached to the mayor's office, where his second in command was Silvio Plata. However, his disagreements with Aleman supposedly led to an apparently definitive break with the Managua mayor.

#### Somozism and the Embarrassment of the Name

The Liberal Party in Miami is reportedly discussing the name that it will use to register legally in Nicaragua. For the time being there is a consensus that it should keep its name, the Liberal Party of Nicaragua. According to them, this reflects the true sentiments of the Liberals in exile and in Nicaragua, although other members contend that it should not be associated with what used to be Somoza's party because that would tarnish its image inside Nicaragua.

#### "El Chiguin", Capital, and Aeronica

Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero ("El Chiguin" [The Kid]) is reportedly aware of all the steps that the Liberal Party of Nicaragua has been taking, and although he is concealing his involvement, he has allegedly been financing the party to strengthen it so that it can win the next election. Nonetheless, both the PLN and Somoza Portocarrero are reportedly taking great pains to prevent

their involvement from becoming public, as this would entail serious image and credibility problems, and as a result it is uncertain whether "El Chiguin" wants to return to Nicaragua.

Somoza is presumably already making his presence felt in Nicaragua through the companies he has established in the United States and Central America so that they can then finance the party throughout the debate among the various Liberal forces until the next election is held.

Likewise, there has been talk that Somoza is also working on the purchase of Aeronica [Nicaraguan Airlines] through a joint asset and investment arrangement with his wife, a Salvadoran citizen who is reportedly a partner in the airline TACA [Central American Air Transport].

**Aleman the Businessman**

Byron Jerez, who owns a car lot in southeast Miami, reportedly represents Arnoldo Aleman's commercial activities in that city.

**Aleman's Municipal Inspectors**

But the support that the aforementioned Cuban-American mayors are said to have given Aleman is reportedly not limited to his political candidacy; it is also designed to guarantee the safety of the Liberals who may be returning to the country and the safety of their businesses. The metropolitan police, which come under the mayors' offices in the Miami area, reportedly have a program to finance the training of municipal inspectors, some of whom are already said to be receiving such training. The material support also purportedly involves donations of communications units and equipment, uniforms, and weapons.

**The Poor as a Cover**

The Liberals' strategy calls for the revival of the Nicaraguan Movement of the Poor, which operates out of Miami under the direction of the ill-famed Cristobal Mendoza, a former secretary of Somozist Liberal Youth, treasurer of the national district, and a senior official in the Interior Ministry. This is a small but very belligerent movement that is well known in southern Florida communities and has a presence in the various print and electronic media owned by Cubans and Nicaraguans. Mendoza is reportedly getting financing from the Liberal Party, specifically from Aleman, for his own support and to sabotage the activities of Antonio Lacayo when he visits Miami. He is also allegedly engaged in a systematic effort to discredit the minister of the presidency, who is regarded as the Sandinists' next candidate.

Mendoza has reportedly had disagreements with Boris Leets, Nadia's first cousin, over the handling of funds.

**Godoy, Cesar, and Aleman: How Do They Fit in?**

Virgilio Godoy reportedly has no role in the strategy of the Liberals in Miami, inasmuch as he has not developed the sort of image for himself in Nicaragua that they would have liked; rather, he has created an image that does not square with the aspirations of the Liberal community in the city. In fact, they say that the Sandinist Front has neutralized him.

The Somozists in Miami reportedly feel that Aleman is smarter, has guts, and has been gradually arousing interest among the Nicaraguan people, unlike Godoy, who was unable to adapt to the political liberalization that took place in Nicaragua after the elections. Nonetheless, they support him like any other member of the party and do not rule out backing for his candidacy if he one day improves his image, although they see this as unrealistic.

Alfredo Cesar, the president of the National Assembly, reportedly does not fit into the Somozists' long-range strategy. On the contrary, they reject the former Nicaraguan Resistance for "betraying" the contras and placing itself at a complete disadvantage vis-a-vis the current government.

Nevertheless, the Somozists look favorably on the friction between Cesar and Antonio Lacayo, since it weakens Mrs. Violeta de Chamorro's government. They have thus allegedly decided to "egg on" the president of the National Assembly so that he continues to undermine the government's institutional authority.

## Panama

### Government Response to Colon Strikers Criticized

*PA2804180192 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Apr 92 p 2a*

[Text] In a recent communique, the Doctrinaire Panamenist Party [PPD] criticizes the government's conduct, especially the Public Force's handling of the recent unrest in Colon and El Baru. The text of the communique states as follows:

The PPD aims to gather within its framework all those men and women who place the nation's needs before their own political, economic, and social well-being and believes it is obliged to express its opinion on the major moral crisis currently taking place in Panama.

Never before in the history of our country has a government elected by the people (and the current government was elected by an overwhelming majority before it was sworn in on Fort Clayton) deteriorated as quickly as the present government.

The middle and lower classes are being unmercifully clobbered in order for the rich to get richer and so the poor may continue their descent into the most abject poverty. There is a constant process of dehumanization taking place at all levels of government, which is the reason why none of its members have been able to suggest appropriate answers to all those citizens from Baru or Colon before they decided to organize all those strikes and street and port of entry blockades.

The PPD affirms its support for the just struggle of all those Baru inhabitants and for that of all those Indian groups that refuse to abandon their lands in the Bayano region, in hope that the settlers issue may reach a reasonable solution. But the PPD is forced to highlight the situation in Colon, in view of the fact that the acts of savagery committed against its defenseless population makes the excesses committed from 1968 to 1989 appear mild in comparison.

According to the 1990 census, Colon Province has a population of 168,292 persons, of which 83 percent live in the capital city.

The economically active population has been estimated at 80,000 persons. Of the 1,934 businesses (excluding the public and agriculture sector), 1,828 or 94.5 percent are involved in commercial activities and services. In 1990, these businesses provided employment to 13,828 persons, which means approximately seven persons per business, representing 17 percent of the economically active population.

Even after more than 40 years, the Colon Free Zone has not been able to solve the poverty and hunger that burden the province.

How is it possible to justify such a high rate of unemployment in the province with the Free Zone, the refinery, the port of Cristobal, and other national industries?

No one can explain it. But when the people of Colon decide to take to the streets and demand respect for their right to a life with dignity, they are answered with tear gas, buck shot, and bullets, in repressive acts worthy of barbarians.

What took place in Colon is a tragic omen of what is to take place during the 1994 elections, when the government's political forces will be defeated all the way down the line.

The picture looks very somber, which is why the PPD—the party of men and women who truly love their country—hereby protests the excesses carried out by the Public Force against the defenseless people of Colon. The party wishes to make a sincere call to all trade unions, labor groups, civic associations, and religious associations, to close ranks in light of the rising abuses, harassment, and other dehumanizing practices typical of the government, before it is too late.

## Modesco Suspends Strike; Endara To Visit 5 May

*PA2804164692 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Apr 92*

[Report by Victor de la Hoz and Hector Ramirez]

[Text] The Movement of the Colon Province Unemployed [Modesco] suspended its strike after President Guillermo Endara Galimany agreed to meet with Colon residents on 5 May. Victor de la Hoz and Hector Ramirez have the details.

[Begin recording] [Ramirez] After a peaceful march through the main streets of Colon—a march that included teachers and workers from the transportation and oil sectors—Modesco held an improvised meeting outside the San Jose Parish where it announced that President Endara had agreed to visit Colon on 5 May to speak with Atlantic Coast residents. The news was well received by the Colon residents, but businessmen from the Colon Free Zone maintain that this situation should not be prolonged since it harms the area's commerce.

Modesco leaders told this station that President Endara's safety will be guaranteed during his visit to Colon Province.

[Unidentified Modesco leader] We have always kept our doors open for dialogue. We are not uncompromising, which is why—despite all the disturbances and all that authorities have said against us—Modesco is still standing. Our objective is not to promote chaos or to topple the government; our objective is to find concrete solutions to the problems existing in Colon.

[Ramirez] The march ended peacefully and Modesco leaders decided to suspend the strike.

[De la Hoz] Since President Endara has decided to visit Colon on 5 May, it is expected that the province's troubling situation will be overcome. [end recording]

## Former Prosecutor Cited on U.S. 'Coup' Officers

*PA2804215492 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] Charges made by the Attorney General's Office concerning four U.S. military officers involved in a plot against President Guillermo Endara are questionable when one considers who is making the accusations, according to former special prosecutor Rodrigo Miranda. According to Miranda, the fact that this news is being made public precisely at this time by Prosecutor Emilio de Leon [of the Chiriqui Province Superior Court] is nothing but a smokescreen in light of the current problems facing the nation. We have Miranda's statements:

[Begin Miranda recording] In my personal opinion, the statements issued by the prosecutor are groundless. Currently, President Endara has to contend with a number of very troubled hot spots throughout the nation—Puerto Armuelles, Alanje, Colon, Chorrillo, San Miguelito, and Darien. President Endara has not resolved the crises that have come up. Currently, we are faced with a very serious energy crisis. [end recording]

According to Miranda, another factor that heightens the current crisis is the unstable organizational structure of the Public Force after so much individual and collective harassment of their personnel and the institution.

[Begin Miranda recording] The Public Force has been completely demoralized. First, there is a minister [Guillermo Ford, second vice president and planning minister]

who calls them queers—then they must confront the criminals with entirely inadequate weaponry. Another matter that demoralizes the Public Force is the presence of paramilitary and intelligence groups that have been created out of fear of a coup, which is the eternal fear of all Arnulfist governments. [end recording]

Regarding statements by Prosecutor Emilio de Leon claiming that despite the investigation of an alleged link of four U.S. military officers with coup attempt involvement, this does not mean that the U.S. Government had knowledge of their actions, Miranda pointed out.

[Begin Miranda recording] Everyone in Chiriqui knows that the prosecutor is a public official who has worked very closely with the invading U.S. soldiers. Everyone knows that he was trained in the United States before the invasion and during the dictatorship; that he has complete access to the U.S. Embassy; and that he has bragged about his contacts with U.S. diplomats stationed in Panama. Since the invasion, he has worked with armed personnel and intelligence offices established in the Chiriqui Province in an attempt to locate weapons hidden by former soldiers of the Noreiga dictatorship under the pretext that they are combating drug trafficking. I do not understand how the prosecutor can make such bold accusations and immediately thereafter say that the U.S. Government is not involved. [end recording]

To conclude, Miranda said that the statements by the prosecutor are an effort to bring out among the Panamanian community wounded nationalist feelings that were devastated after the U.S. invasion.

### Linares Comments

*PA2904032292 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] The Panamanian Foreign Ministry will send a note to the Attorney General's Office requesting more details on the alleged participation of U.S. soldiers in coup attempts. Here is Foreign Minister Julio Linares:

[Begin Linares recording] Concerning U.S. soldiers or military officers stationed on U.S. bases or defense sites here who are involved in strictly penal or criminal cases, the cases must be handled by the Attorney General's Office, which must conduct the investigation. Then they will be handled by the courts. [end recording]

Linares said he will request further information from Attorney General Rogelio Cruz before issuing any statement to the U.S. Government.

On another subject, Linares referred to the situation in Peru. He said the position adopted by Panama at the OAS is one of the most firm positions in defense of democracy, because it gives President Fujimori a deadline to implement the decisions adopted within the OAS.

## Argentina

### Di Tella 'Condemns' Violations of Peru's Coup

*PY2904030192 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1812 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Apr (EFE)—Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella today told the foreign press that Peru will be condemned to isolation if it does not recover its democracy after the coup d'etat headed by Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori.

Argentina "has not changed its stance and it categorically condemns the gross violations of the Peruvian Constitution that have been committed by Fujimori," Di Tella said, denying that Buenos Aires has assumed a "more pragmatic" stance with regard to Peru.

Moreover, Di Tella considered as "positive" the fact that the Peruvian leader "has released the political prisoners and given more freedom to the press," which he attributed to "diplomatic pressure."

Notwithstanding, the Argentine minister said that "Fujimori has threatened to jail congressmen who do not recognize his authority is very worrying."

The Argentine, Honduran, and Canadian foreign ministers suspended their trip to Lima "due to a problem in coordinating agendas." He noted that the OAS report on the situation in Peru will be published on 2 May.

Argentina's "categorical" stance on the Peruvian situation "does not imply interference in the internal affairs of other countries," the minister said.

"We are not only authorized to give an opinion, we are obliged to give one in defense of democracy because the standards of international diplomacy have changed and it is not possible to admit coups d'etat just like that," he added.

Di Tella believes the Peruvian guerrillas, "without a doubt, celebrated" the constitutional breakdown headed by Fujimori, who dissolved Congress and beheaded the judicial branch on 5 April.

In this respect, the Argentine foreign minister said: "The democratic legitimacy of governments is the key in the fight against subversion."

Argentina "cannot assume the role of a jurist, but it does not believe it correct that Fujimori—on his own accord—has ordered a reform of the Constitution and the restoration of democracy at an unclear date within 12 months," Di Tella added.

The minister announced that the Peruvian case will be the main topic at the next OAS assembly, which will begin on 17 May in the Bahamas.

### Police Accord To Fight Drugs, Terrorism Signed

*PY2804183092 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1836 GMT 27 Apr 92*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Apr (TELAM)—Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano has stated that in the "terrorist field, as well as in the drug trafficking field, a connection, from the criminal point of view, between Argentina and Spain is possible."

Manzano thus explained the reason behind the police cooperation agreement signed during a ceremony this morning at Government House's conference hall with his Spanish counterpart, Jose Luis Corcuera.

The ceremony, which ended with a news conference, was attended by Spanish Ambassador Rafael Pastor Ridruejo; SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] Director Hugo Anzorregui; Alberto Lestelle, secretary for prevention and struggle against drug trafficking and drug abuse; Adelina Viola, Interior Ministry secretary for institutional affairs, and TELAM agency intervenor Pedro Garcia.

Manzano noted that "this cooperation agreement, in practice, represents a broad, straightforward, and immediate exchange of information, a follow-up, and Spanish and Argentine joint actions to prevent international crimes." Manzano then thanked Spain for its cooperation in the investigations involving the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires.

The agreement also includes an electoral chapter in which the two democratic governments express their common purpose of "stepping up the peoples' participation." The agreement states that the laws of the two countries establish the "possibility that citizens of the other country have a right to vote in municipal elections, and that in some jurisdictions, inclusive in Argentina, they may even run as candidates."

Manzano said that "this is a right being exercised with a different effectiveness," and noted that "the Spanish Government has normalized the situation of Argentines residing in that country. Therefore, they have acquired that right for Spanish municipal elections."

When asked about the prospects that the democratization of Eastern Europe will bring and the subsequent immigration to Argentina, Manzano answered: "Our immigration policy tries to balance the Argentine people's constitutional right to a job with the principle that we are an open country."

The minister added: Argentina's immigration policy bears two things in mind: grant attention to the immigrants of neighboring countries in order to legalize the situation of the "300,000 or 500,000 living in the country."

As for the Eastern European countries, Manzano explained that the country is capable of receiving "a large flow of immigrants but we believe that they will not

come to replace Argentine workers, but rather to enhance the country's economic potential."

The Spanish interior minister said that his country will allow the "entry of as many people as may fit" in referring to the subject of the immigration of Eastern European inhabitants, although he noted that Spain's "main concern is the number of people immigrating from North Africa."

When asked whether the Spanish Government was happy with the cooperation given by the Argentine Government in the so-called "Yomagate" case, Corcuera said: "I believe we must fully observe the international agreement that has been created to be respected," and added that "all the extradition cases have something in common with the countries, that is, the respect for the laws of each nation."

In this regard he said: "I do not usually give my opinion on cases still not closed, among other things, because I respect the courts' ability." The Spanish minister then said: "Regarding this case in particular, I have had ample cooperation, but I insist the case is still open, therefore, I will not give an opinion."

Corcuera noted that the group of EC interior ministers known as the "Trevi" group assesses terrorist threats twice a year, and he noted that "Argentina has asked this group about the possibility of attending the meetings as an observer, the same as the United States, Canada, and other countries, a request we will strongly back."

Regarding the possibility that South American terrorist groups may settle down in Spain, Corcuera said: "An end must be put to this issue. A greater or lesser threat may exist but the threat of international crime is a fact."

Corcuera ended by stating: "People who formed or were militants of political or terrorist groups have, certainly, cooperated with the ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty], in abduction cases, for example."

### Conflicts Among Center-Left Parties Reported

*PY2804230492 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Apr 92 p 11*

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Conflicts in the centre-left parties regarding alliance policies, which had remained in the shadows for some time, burst to the surface yesterday. While a group of Movement towards Socialism (MAS) leaders attempted to oust Deputy Luis Zamora from party ranks for accepting to join a May 1 demonstration organized by opposition union leaders instead of a MAS march, Socialist Unity Deputy Alfredo Bravo definitely rejected the possibility of running for senator due to "the failure of an internal agreement to reach an electoral front with other political forces."

In the latest development of a drawn-out conflict within the MAS structure, a communique signed by a group of party leaders stated that Zamora, Buenos Aires provincial Deputy Silvia Diaz and other members of a minority faction "have left the party to join another rally."

Zamora, however, denied any intention to leave MAS.

Zamora and Diaz promoted a Workers' Day joint demonstration in Plaza de Mayo with the Communist Party, the Workers' Party (PO) and leftist union leaders. The MAS authorities had organized a parallel celebration at Plaza Once.

Supporters of party independence and those seeking to close ranks with other forces have clashed for the party leadership since 1987. The sector which is currently strongest—headed by Nora Ciapponi, Jorge Mera and Luis Poetto—opposes any union with the "communist bureaucracy."

Meanwhile, Bravo recognized his failure at trying to convince the Popular Socialist Party (PSP) to reach an electoral alliance with other centre-left forces—a move that was already approved by his Democratic Socialist Party (PSD), which forms the Socialist Unity together with the PSP—and thus withdrew his senatorial candidacy.

The PSD held their 41st National Congress over the week-end, where they approved an alliance with the PSP. The assembly, which was presided over by Bravo, even appointed a committee to study the possible reform of party rules in case the alliance with the PSP, led by Santa Fe Deputy Guillermo Estevez Boero, turned out to be long-lasting.

## Bolivia

### President Opens Congresses; Other Agenda

#### University Professionals Congress

*PY2504174892 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 25 Apr 92*

[Excerpts] President Paz Zamora today opened the Seventh Latin American Congress of University Professionals and the 12th National Congress of Bolivian Professionals. Representatives from all Latin American countries attending the meeting will study the role of Latin American professionals in society.

After the national anthem was sung, Norman Ramirez, president of the Federation of La Paz Professionals, welcomed the participants. [passage omitted]

President Paz Zamora, who welcomed the participants, evaluated the Bolivian economic, social, and political situation. He said that Bolivia, after achieving economic stability, is entering a process of modernization with the participation of all Bolivians and within a framework of respect for institutions, democratic organization, and a rejection of nepotism. Paz called on all Latin Americans to continue working for development.

[Begin Paz recording] I would like to convey my great optimism because I believe the path we are following is the right one, although there are still many things that have to be improved. Many mistakes are still being made. I believe, however, that the direction we are going in is right. If we follow and maintain this path, Latin America will not be left behind the rest of the world in the 21st Century. If we follow this path coherently, we will become part of the next century, which will be highly competitive.

I would also like to congratulate you for selecting for this congress the controversial issues of integration and ecology, which without a doubt, are extremely important for the world and have a special meaning for our continent. The two issues emerge from the single fact that whether we like it or not, the planet is becoming a type of common house. This is becoming reality, whether we like it or not. This is valid not only for the Latin American integration process, but also for establishing a Latin American position in the field of ecology, the defense of the environment.

Whether we like it or not, we are integrating ourselves. The problem is not to become integrated by others, with another purpose and disregarding our own position. We must be very clear about what we want and we must integrate ourselves with our own will in accordance with our own objectives. [applause] [end recording]

The congress that opened today will conclude on 26 April.

### Opens Drug Conference

*PY2804185892 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora has inaugurated the 10th International Conference for Drug Control [IDEC] in Santa Cruz. The conference will check on Andean countries' progress in the fight against drugs, as was agreed on before the launching of the integration process that took effect at the beginning of the year.

During the first part of the conference, delegates will review compliance with the latest agreements on drug money laundering. Most countries do not have the appropriate training, and they have decided to train their personnel and establish police units and special organizations to follow up and investigate the movement of drug money. The 10th IDEC will make an analysis of member countries' progress in specific areas. The main emphasis of the effort is directed at the formulation of national laws forbidding the reception, transfer, or hiding of money derived from drug trafficking.

Nearly 130 delegates from around the world are participating in the 10th IDEC. Observers include representatives from the Vatican, the PRC, and Japan.

### To Visit PRC 8-11 May

*PY2804155292 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] According to Carlos Bohrt Irahola, Bolivian ambassador to the PRC, yesterday, the PRC will grant Bolivia an economic cooperation agreement worth almost $10 million. This and other agreements will be signed during President Jaime Paz Zamora's visit there from 8-11 May.

President Paz Zamora will meet the PRC's president, prime minister, and Communist Party secretary general. The announcement also listed a series of activities in a special program approved by PRC authorities. Carlos Bohrt Irahola added that the two countries will sign a series of cooperation agreements:

[Begin Bohrt recording] His excellency will sign a trade exchange agreement that will allow the opening of the large Chinese market to Bolivian products; a scientific-technical cooperation agreement that will give Bolivia access to the PRC's very rich technological know-how; a reciprocal investment protection and promotion agreement seeking the investment of Chinese resources in Bolivia; and the opening of a $10 million line of credit, without interest, (?30) years maturity, a 10-year grace period, and in Chinese currency. Bolivia will be allowed to pay this credit with national products. [end recording]

The ambassador added that there is growing expectation in the PRC for the Bolivian president's 8-11 May visit to that country.

### ADN Official Denies U.S. Embassy Meetings

*PY2704215492 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Apr 92*

[Text] According to Deputy Guillermo Fortun, Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN] vice president, the Patriotic Agreement and the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] never held meetings at the U.S. Embassy. The United Left recently denounced these meetings. According to ADN Vice President Guillermo Fortun, however, the information is totally groundless. Fortun added that the case of Deputy Fernando Barthelemy is in the hands of the Attorney General's Office.

[Begin Fortun recording] The attorney general must decide whether the Supreme Court or another court will hear former Deputy Barthelemy's case because he is on leave at this time. That is why we never got in touch.... [pauses] Because the issue was already over, concluded, and the United Left's petition wanted to know whether the case was going to be heard by the joint Constitution Committee of Congress. The Chamber of Deputies has already decided on the issue, a report was submitted, and Deputy Barthelemy has been licensed.

We believe the case is already in the attorney general's hands. Once he receives all the information, he will decide whether the case will be heard by the Santa Cruz

District Supreme Court, a special judge, or whatever the laws determine. The topic is finished. It has not merited any meeting between the Patriotic Agreement, the U.S. Embassy, and the MNR.

What I want to repeat is that we must discuss the need for an agreement between the MNR, the Patriotic Agreement, and the other political forces. There are many important things to discuss. We need to reform the Constitution. We need to agree on which constitutional articles need to be reformed. We have to analyze this topic before this session concludes in August. We also have to discuss the issue of decentralization and the judicial branch reform bill. In order to discuss these topics and other important issues, we must reestablish the dialogue among political parties. [end recording]

## Brazil

### Communications Secretary Outlines Future Plans

*PY2904032892 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Summary] National Communications Secretary Nelson Marchezan, who is replacing Joel Rauber, was installed in Brasilia today. In his speech, he confirmed his "commitment to complete, before the end of the year, all delayed projects including the installation of more than 250,000 telephones." He promised "to continue to grow at a rate of 15 percent per year," which means "nearly 1 million new telephones will be installed this year," and "to increase the participation of the competitive private sector, particularly through the implementation of cellular telephones." He added that special attention will be given to the installation of public telephones countrywide.

### Bahia Governor Discusses Political Influence

*PY2804222292 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Apr 92 Section 1 p 7*

[Interview with Bahia Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes by reporter Hugo Studart; place and date not given]

[Text] [Studart] Has the "Acaraje [typical Bahia dish] Republic" replaced the "Alagoas Republic" [referring to the alleged influence of a group of presidential staffers from Alagoas State]?

[Magalhaes] Those who know what acaraje is also know that it is hard to prepare, although its pleasant taste makes it worth the trouble. Only those who have never tried acaraje do not like it. It has been rumored that I appointed a minister and a bank president, but I did not. The problem is that some are saying that I appointed certain people who are my friends, but who have no political obligation to me. This gives me satisfaction because they are attributing power to me that I do not have.

[Studart] What about Angelo Calmon de Sa?

[Magalhaes] I did not recommend him for the Regional Development Ministry. President Collor knew, however, that his appointment would please Bahia State. With my approval, his name was included in a list of possible candidates for the ministry, which was prepared by Deputy Luis Eduardo (Antonio Carlos Magalhaes' son, who is the Liberal Front Party [PFL] leader in the Chamber of Deputies). If the president had asked me to suggest a name, I would have suggested Calmon de Sa's name.

[Studart] What do you think of former Deputy Nelson Marchezan's appointment to the Communications Secretariat, replacing your friend Joel Rauber?

[Magalhaes] I am pleased with it. Marchezan called me. He mentioned our friendship and said he was grateful to me for my attitude while I was communications minister. When the president appointed Joel Rauber—he made the decision on his own—he was kind enough to call me to say that he was appointing one of my former aides. He did not consult me before or after Marchezan's appointment.

[Studart] Did you move your political influence from the Communications Secretariat to the Regional Development Ministry?

[Magalhaes] Pope John XXIII used to say: "No one can do everything." During negotiations with Minister Jorge Bornhausen, Deputy Luis Eduardo told him that Bahia would like to have more political links with the Regional Development Secretariat, and our wishes were fulfilled. No one offered to exchange the Communications Secretariat for that, but since Bahia was given a ministry, it is more than natural for the Communications Secretariat to be given to another state.

[Studart] Why are you no longer interested in the Communications Secretariat?

[Magalhaes] I am interested, and my friends are even more interested, but the Regional Development Secretariat is better for Bahia. Obviously, I would want it if I was given the power to indicate the direction in which companies linked to the Communications Secretariat should go. What I do not want is to ask for it. If I am asked, I can propose good people. I feel, however, that I should not have anything to do with third-level appointments.

[Studart] What is currently the most important political position in Brazil?

[Magalhaes] I would put transportation and communications in first place. Next comes social action and regional development. Of course, the most important is the Economy Ministry. The one who heads the Economy Ministry has control over other ministries.

[Studart] Would you like to see Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira replaced?

[Magalhaes] I disagree with some points of his economic policy, which is quite natural. I find, for example, that interest rates are unbearable, and he will have to bow to

evidence that inflation will not be curbed through this policy. To think of changing him now would be a crime against Brazil, however. This is what I told him when the minister phoned me from Tokyo.

[Studart] Is Calmon de Sa your candidate for the Economy Ministry?

[Magalhaes] He has been mentioned many times for several positions because he is a great cadre, but for the time being, it is not good to even mention this matter. The important thing is Marques Moreira's stability.

[Studart] Has the time arrived to halt the bad talk about the government and to come to a truce with the president?

[Magalhaes] My criticisms were always made to help the government find the right answers, and the criticisms will return if the same reasons reappear. I feel that the president was quite right with the cabinet reshuffle because he made a frontal attack on corruption. You can rest assured that whenever there is a lack of morality in the administration, my voice will be heard.

[Studart] Why is the president always consulting you on the most important issues? Is he afraid that you may turn against him?

[Magalhaes] It is not in the president's temperament to be afraid of anyone. He is certainly keeping in mind that I worked for his campaign in the first and second electoral rounds. We often exchanged ideas and we also met without the press being aware of it. He always informed me about the people he chose for a ministry. Sometimes he chose with such enthusiasm that I did not have the courage to say that I did not like his choice. I do not propose names; after all, I am at the age for making friends.

[Studart] The president took over the government wanting to govern with the progressive generation of the Beatles; now he has had to resort to the assistants of the military regime. Is this a step back or a defeat for Collor?

[Magalhaes] People in public posts are neither conservatives nor progressives. They are only either competent or incompetent.

[Studart] Will the president have to govern under the tutelage of political parties, especially the PFL?

[Magalhaes] The president does not allow tutelage from anyone. He will have to obtain majority support from the political parties, however, by treating their members well.

[Studart] What does he need to do to satisfy Congress?

[Magalhaes] First, he must have a serious government. Second, there is no place in Brazil that does not need roads, schools, or health centers. I feel the president cannot run a government exclusively with a closed treasury without taking care of social issues because this can create greater problems in the future. If there is no money left over, the government can establish the priorities in negotiations with politicians.

[Studart] Is giving new concessions for radio and television a way to do it?

[Magalhaes] When I was communications minister, I believed it was a government duty to provide leisure in the municipalities. This is why the Sarney government gave many concessions. There are still many to be given and I feel that President Collor will have to do that because people throughout the country want leisure.

[Studart] As an old professor of politics for President Collor, who considers you a PhD, how would you evaluate the president's current political performance?

[Magalhaes] It is better to bestow titles when the government reaches a conclusion. If I give a high mark, it will sound like flattery, and if I give a low mark, it will sound like criticism.

### * Cuba Transfers Pulp Production Technology

*92SM0371B Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 4-6 Apr 92 p 9*

[By Sao Paulo correspondent Mariluce Moura]

[Text] Pilao S.A. Machinery and Equipment signed an agreement with Cuba on 12 March for the transfer of technology to produce high-yield pulp from sugarcane bagasse for use in making paper. Thus the Sao Paulo firm completes, in a manner that could not have been predicted, efforts to master the production processes for that type of pulp. Strictly speaking, the company has been involved in its search since 1976—although it was not until five years ago that it turned to sugarcane bagasse as the raw material that might be best suited to lead it to its objective.

The strangest thing about the agreement is that it took Pilao, a traditional manufacturer of equipment and machinery for the paper and cellulose industry, only four months to develop and conclude the negotiating process with the Cubans. Under the terms of the agreement, the two parties must now set up an engineering company in Brazil through which the technology transfer will take place.

At the same time, Pilao is resuming discussions with the Funding Authority for Studies and Projects (FINEP)—which has been providing financial backing for the company's research since the 1970's—and with an alcohol and sugar mill that Milton Pilao prefers not to identify, concerning investment in the first industrial plant to produce high-yield pulp from sugarcane bagasse.

"Estimates indicate that about $4.5 to $5 million in investment is required for a plant that would produce 30 tons of pulp per day," Pilao said. Other economic feasibility studies show that the price of the product will probably be about half that of cellulose pulp, now quoted on the world market at $580 per ton. "This should make it extremely interesting, both to sugar mills that want to diversify their activities by using about 70 percent of the bagasse that is left over from its processing, since only 30

percent is used for energy purposes, and to manufacturers of second-line (non-white) papers," Pilao believes.

**The Right Partner**

It was in November, during an exhibit sponsored by the Brazilian Technical Association of Cellulose and Paper (ABCTP) that Cuban experts came into contact with the research being done by Pilao for sugarcane bagasse. The Brazilian firm's experience in machinery and equipment, however (including international experience, because the company, which had sales of $8 million in 1991, exports 60 percent of its production), was a decisive factor in the Cubans' identifying it as a good partner for new business deals.

At the invitation of the island's government, Milton Pilao overcame long-standing resistance and traveled to Cuba to see the Cuba-9 project where bagasse pulp is made for newsprint, cardboard, and packaging. Four trips later, on 12 March, he signed the technology transfer agreement with project general manager Nancy Fernandez and Cuban Minister of Sugar Raul Trujillo.

Particularly enthusiastic about the device used by the Cubans to remove the sucrose from the bagasse while fully preserving the desirable characteristics of the fiber, their special storage techniques, and the precision of the mechanical process that removes the fibers, Milton Pilao does not, however, reveal the financial terms of the accord.

"We are becoming risk partners and it is extremely important to Cuba, at this point, to enter into deals with Latin American partners because the Soviet Union no longer exists. They are transferring the technology, we will make the equipment, and we are sure there is an enormous market potential for our project," he said. Pilao estimates that given their present production capacity, once the first plant is built they will be able to build three a year.

## Chile

### Aylwin Opens Environmental Policies Forum

*PY2804204892 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Report by Carlos Humberto Silva]

[Text] President of the Republic Patricio Aylwin has said that defeating misery represents a great challenge for Latin American nations. He asked national leaders and entrepreneurs to equitably use natural resources, adding that the end results should not result in privilege or a booty for the strong at the expense of the weak.

This morning he went to the old Congress building to inaugurate a forum sponsored by the FAO [UN Food and Agriculture Organization] on development and the environment within agriculture, forestry, and fishing in Latin America and the Caribbean.

FAO Deputy Director Rafael Moreno, Agriculture Minister Juan Agustin Figueroa and other Latin American and Caribbean ministers of state attended. Aylwin stressed that there will be no democratic stability, full exercise of human rights, or peaceful coexistence unless we are capable of defeating the problem of misery. He said:

[Begin Aylwin recording, in progress] ... necessary that the end results of that effort be equitably shared or distributed among everyone. End results should not be a privilege or a booty for the most audacious or those who have plenty. They should be shared by all those participating in this effort [words indistinct] special concern for the weakest. [end recording]

Aylwin then emphasized that the states must not give up their role of administering common good and defending the poorest, adding that Chile tries to reconcile democracy, economic development, and social equality. With realism and idealism, he said, we are trying to promote this project because it seeks to enhance coexistence for our people.

### Arms Producer Criticizes U.S. Seizure Policy

*PY2804213792 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 Apr 92 pp D5, D6*

[Interview with Chilean arms producer Carlos Cardoen Cornejo by Pilar Molina Armas; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Molina] You have been charged with supplying Iraq with ammunition and 29,000 cluster bombs, worth more than $200 million, that were manufactured with components illegally imported from the United States. Did you illegally import several tonnes of zirconium [zirconio] (a metal that enhances explosive power) from the United States in order to manufacture your cluster bombs?

[Cardoen] Certainly not.

[Molina] The charges against you state that the Swisso enterprise, with which you are linked, purchased the zirconium from Teledyne, and that Swisso and Teledyne forged the documents stating that the zirconium was to be used for mining in Peru.

[Cardoen] No, we purchased the zirconium from Teledyne CIF [cost, insurance, freight] to Iquique or any Chilean port. The exporter—in this case Teledyne—is responsible for obtaining the export permit.

[Molina] Teledyne cooperated in the 18-month investigation carried out by the government. Its offices were even searched during the process. The charges state that the exports were made without the necessary permit, using false data, and that you were aware of this and participated in the operation. Are you, as the buyer, exempt from responsibility for irregularities in the export permits?

[Cardoen] Certainly. The exporter is responsible for any administrative irregularity should there have been any.

[Molina] You have also been charged in two Florida courts with laundering money through all sorts of corporations that were set up to bring the payments for the bombs you sold to Iraq into Miami through Switzerland.

[Cardoen] Laundering money involves illegal money and there is nothing illegal about our operations. We have made these sales with all the necessary authorizations of our government. There is no doubt that all these ill-intentioned maneuvers of the U.S. Government—which seeks to subject an exclusively Chilean activity to its own interests—have nothing to do with accusing me of laundering money or importing zirconium. They have another objective: to wipe us out as arms producers.

[Molina] But you do not manufacture weapons.

[Cardoen] No. But we have the full capacity to do so. In the past we beat U.S. enterprises in tenders—like in Saudi Arabia—and are prepared to do so again in the future.

[Molina] Do you believe that the two Florida district attorneys, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Customs Service are all ganging up against a Chilean arms exporter?

[Cardoen] Well, it all seems quite incredible but I am not the only one to be confused by what lies behind it all. But don't you find it also ridiculous to think that the United States poisoned some Chilean grapes. As you know, in my case they are just civil charges in which no judicial decision has been taken. They are just precautionary administrative measures taken by the United States in order to delay the true criminal charges that we have made.

When the Customs Service confiscated a Cardoen helicopter—a Bell 296—we took the case before the courts and we are winning it, in the first instance.

U.S. Customs was asked to prove there was something illegal about this helicopter which was designed in Chile and they obtained a four month extension of the deadline to produce the evidence against us. They then asked for another extension and, together with the Department of Commerce, began new coercive measures in the belief that they would be able to economically strangle us through the confiscation of premises that we built and subsequently sold. They confiscated these properties from their current owners and are going to run into a huge legal problem because these properties no longer belong to me. I have a real estate project in which we have legally invested resources as we have done in Chile.

[Molina] If the plaintiff wanted to force you to prove that these confiscated properties no longer belong to you, they might even request your extradition, am I right?

[Cardoen] I am prepared to defend myself and my lawyers are already working on this. I think I have an extremely strong legal argument with which to defend myself. All this has been organized by Bush.

[Molina] Why do you mention Bush in particular?

[Cardoen] Because I know the American people. In this case Bush is personally responsible for dismantling the Brazilian and Argentine defense industries. Bush reached an agreement with President Fernando Collor to restrict the development of private and public military projects. Bush also reached agreement with Menem to stop the development of the Condor project in Argentina. Now it is Chile's turn. His advisers probably thought it would be much easier to wipe us out through other means like strangling us economically. Why haven't they touched Famae [Chilean Army Ordnance]?

[Molina] But is Bush, who advocates open and free economies, defending his arms manufacturers by allowing his public employees to plot against a Chilean arm manufacturer?

[Cardoen] No. It is even more simple. Under the hegemonic policy exerted by the United States in the new order, defense industries of developing countries represent a threat to his objectives. The U.S., French, Soviet, and the Third World's arms industry helped Saddam Husayn to arm himself. I believe that when others arm themselves, or have the possibility to do so through production lines that are not under his control, this also threatens the U.S. objectives in the new order

[Molina] I do not see a problem here, considering the peaceful attempt to avoid new wars that inspires this new world order in which the United States has become its defender.

[Cardoen] I hope you are right, but I believe the recent Persian Gulf war is a long way from being a pacifist action. Neither the 300,000 people who died in this war nor the tone and the violent and illegal action unleashed by the United States against me can be regarded as an example of pacifism. I believe that this country does not seek pacifism but hegemony, a total control.

The lack of balance will cause many problems for us. Through the now-defunct Soviet Union, the communist system acted as a counterweight and the United States thought twice before perpetrating these outrages. It is now acting with impunity and we have to identify the instigators and show what they are doing. This is my objective. [passage omitted]

I see a government trying to gain the status of an emperor and as manager of world order. The recent proposal of having a single multinational force in America—headed by the United States, of course—would probably leave us with a police corps in Chile and nothing else. [passage omitted]

[Molina] U.S. piracy has various levels of support depending on the interests it is championing. They claim

that your helicopter was withheld because you intended to sell it, armed, to Iraq, that is, for military use. Did you intend to do this?

[Cardoen] That is a stupid charge. How can I sell a prototype if I do not have a helicopter factory! Our helicopter was taken to the United States as a civilian aircraft to be certified by the Federal Aviation Administration [preceding three words in English] (FAA), which only certifies civilian aircraft. I wanted to sell helicopters in the United States. That was my audacity. [passage omitted]

[Molina] Has your arms industry halted because there are few wars now?

[Cardoen] No, military equipment is also used in military training. [passage omitted]

[Molina] Did you sell bombs to Ethiopia?

[Cardoen] Perhaps I did.

[Molina] Would you be manufacturing cluster bombs for sale to Ethiopia had the United Nations not banned arms sales to Yugoslavia?

[Cardoen] If the Chilean Government considers it in keeping with its interests, I will sell them because it will be a government decision. Arms purchase requests are normally received by the government.

[Molina] Couldn't this precisely be Bush's idea, to prevent arms dealers from continuing to fuel wars?

[Cardoen] There are civilized ways of discussing things. If the Chilean Government does not want me to export, I will be prevented from doing it. The Chilean Government can cancel the manufacturing licenses. Therefore, it is extremely simple to control this. (Cardoen sighs, as if he were breathless) [passage omitted]

[Molina] Can the defense industry be kept alive without constantly becoming technologically updated?

[Cardoen] It is very difficult. I believe we will seek a merger with a company controlled by the Armed Forces, like Enaer [National Aeronautical Enterprise] or Famae in order to unite and defend ourselves better. [passage omitted]

[Molina] What support have you received from the government concerning the seizure of your helicopter and properties in Miami?

[Cardoen] I believe the government has been extremely cautious. Until a few days ago, this issue just involved a private company and a few U.S. Government officials. Today, this discussion has passed beyond those limits. I have deemed it necessary to raise this issue with the foreign minister. I was received well and the Foreign Ministry is studying this issue.

[Molina] Do you expect a diplomatic protest over the two cases?

[Cardoen] We cannot dictate a decision to the government. The foreign minister will see what can be done.

[Molina] Can you imagine the government of President Aylwin entering into a conflict with the United States over a Chilean arms exporter?

[Cardoen] I am not asking my government to become involved in a conflict with the United States. Nevertheless, this goes beyond the entrepreneur's level of decision and the government must resolve this issue so that we industrialists will know what to expect, if we will have to continue producing raw materials that the United States likes, such as copper and other basic things, because the United States does not like fruit any longer, or we will begin to compete in technologically sophisticated fields so that we add value to the things we manufacture.

[Molina] Where will your fight with the world colossus take you?

[Cardoen] Wherever it takes me. I believe I must struggle to recover my helicopter and obtain my airworthiness license because it is fair and absolutely basic for our dignity. It is a human right and it must be championed. U.S. Government agencies should not dirty their hands by poisoning grapes, stealing helicopters, or pirating a few houses in Miami. These are base deeds that are not compatible with a country that allegedly will be crowned as emperor of the new order. We are all expecting the United States to be able to manage its hegemony with more justice because, if not, we will just become another little star on the U.S. flag.

### 'Smear Campaign' Against Carabineros Denounced

*PY2804183892 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Excerpt] On its 65th anniversary, Carabineros of Chile denounced the smear campaign against the institution. In a ceremony attended by President Patricio Aylwin, Carabineros Director General Rodolgo Stange stressed the state of the uniformed police's morale.

Top Chilean authorities were present today at the Carabineros school to participate in its 65th anniversary celebrations. President Aylwin arrived with Carabineros Director General Rodolgo Stange, who in his speech stressed the institution's development. He thanked the government and the legislative branch for their cooperation in providing more personnel to the Carabineros, and for the new material resources that were displayed on the occasion.

However, Stange expressed concern about the existence of a smear campaign against the Carabineros, seeking to demoralize its personnel. He added that the institution always has respected and cooperated with the judicial branch. He was tacitly referring to the slain professors case in which 16 police officials are facing trial. He said that the Carabineros has the moral and legal right to provide legal advice to its personnel on active duty, and

to support those who have retired while the judicial proceedings continue. He said that these trials might very well be revoked.

At the end of the ceremony, Stange said the Carabineros will file suit against the weekly EL SIGLO for the publication of a document he said is false, attributed to the institution's administrative office. [passage omitted]

### Former Director Released

*PY2904032692 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Excerpts] Approximately half an hour ago, General Cesar Mendoza was set free on bail. The Sixth Appellate Court confirmed Judge Milton Juica's ruling. There were great expectations about this case at the appellate court due to repeated suspensions and legal appeals that delayed the two parties' arguements.

Finally, once the court was set with all judges, Lawyer Pablo Rodriguez began his arguements, followed by lawyers Hector Salazar and Eduardo Sepulveda, who opposed the release of the former Carabineros director.

In accordance with the antiterrorist law, only a unanimous decision could confirm Judge Milton Juica's decision, and the appellate court unanimously decided to release General Mendoza on a bail of 500,000 pesos. [passage omitted]

A judicial official immediately notified General Mendoza, who is in custody at the Carabineros Metropolitan Prefecture building, of the decision. He has been accused of covering up terrorist actions.

## Colombia

### Telecom Strike Settled; Gaviria Cancels Speech

*PA2904014492 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo canceled his announced speech that was scheduled for the evening of 28 April after it was learned that an agreement has been reached with the Colombian Telecommunications Enterprise [Telecom]. Most of his speech was on the subject of the communications problems. It has not been announced when he will speak to explain the current situation of the country, particularly regarding labor issues.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr. Communications Minister, does the government endorse the agreement that lifts the strike at Telecom?

[Communications Minister Mauricio Vargas Linares] The government feels that the terms under which the agreement has been drafted, and which is about to be signed, take into consideration the government's stand. In other words, the government feels all guarantees have been given and there are possibilities of discussing other alternatives, particularly the fact the workers are interested in discussing draft law No. 33. Obviously, if we reach an agreement, we will present joint proposals for modifications. As for those persons who present proposals on which we do not reach an agreement, they will adopt their own decisions and the Congress will adopt its own decisions.

[Reporter] Senator Eduardo Pizano, you are one of the sponsors of this agreement. What is the commitment of the workers to reestablish services following the signing of this agreement?

[Pizano] Once the agreement is signed, the workers will commit themselves to lift the strike and begin working at Telecom to restore telecommunications in the country. They have committed themselves to work 24 hours a day to restore communications in the various cities in the country and to restore Colombia's communication abroad.

[Reporter] We now ask Telecom President Francisco Javier Navarro a question. What is the evolution of the strike at this hour, a few minutes past 1900 on 28 April?

[Navarro] We are about to sign the agreement that will immediately lift the strike and begin negotiations with clearly defined goals. We hope everything will work out well. I think the situation is not over until the agreement has been signed and all procedures are clearly established. [end recording]

### Agreement Details Disclosed

*PA2904021692 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] The agreement that has just been signed, which ends the telecommunications strike, emphasizes the following points:

The Communications Ministry, the Colombian Telecommunications Enterprise [Telecom] directors, and the workers' representatives will immediately form a commission to study an alternative for the legislative development of telecommunications and to promote a special law for Telecom that excludes selling the enterprise.

Those future agreements to be reached by the commission will be presented as a list of modifications to the government's proposal to draft law No. 33.

The Telecom administration and workers' representatives will create, together with the members of Telecom's board of directors, a panel group to analyze and resolve the issue of disciplinary measures that originated with the strike.

## Gaviria Letter on Prospects of Peace Talks

*PA2904024892 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 24 Apr 92 p 8*

[Text] A cease-fire, the release of hostages, and the suspension of hostilities are three priorities the government is demanding of the guerrillas, says President Cesar Gaviria in a message to the National Salvation Movement [MSN] faction in Congress.

Once these demands are met, the government will be willing to present to the rebels a report on the state of the nation, to transfer the talks from Tlaxcala to Colombia, and to grant special status to Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] spokesmen, enabling them to participate in political activities.

In response to the open letter the MSN congressmen sent to him 12 days ago [actual date not specified], the president said that the guerrillas have been inconsistent because while discussing peace, they have carried out acts of terrorism, murders, and kidnappings.

He pointed out that the guerrillas must prove that "they are willing to take part in politics without weapons," and he expressed the government's interest in spending a limited amount of time searching for the different guerrilla fronts, in clearly outlined areas.

The president's message states the following:

I am hereby answering the open letter you sent to my office on 10 April, in which you expressed certain thoughts concerning the peace process.

First of all, I must inform you that the dialogue the national government has been holding with the CNGSB does not exhaust its peace policy; the dialogue is only one of the policy's components. The strengthening of justice to peacefully resolve conflicts, the bolstering of the capabilities of the public force, the national rehabilitation plan underway in the poorest rural areas, and the defense and protection of human rights, among other things, are also essential to the national pacification effort the government has imposed on itself.

Additionally, however, the government has insisted on various occasions on something that I must reiterate: dialogue with the guerrillas—until clear and verifiable cease-fire agreements are reached—does not suspend the constitutional duties of the public force. Nor does it substitute for these duties. Therefore, the dialogue does not imply that military forces and police and state security organizations must cease to fulfill the plans and programs they are carrying out in favor of peace and the tranquillity of the citizenry. The government's resolve to struggle to offer patriotic service and institutional integrity, and the dedication of the public force toward fulfillment of its constitutional mission, have not changed.

Also on various occasions, and at the national Congress itself, the president of the Republic, as well as the defense minister, have said that Colombia must—and this is what is being done—invest more in security and justice. This must be done within the framework of the government's general policy of confronting violence. Toward this end I am sending you a copy of the national government's statements in the document "Plans To End the Armed Struggle," disclosed in March at the resumption of the peace talks with the CNGSB in Tlaxcala, Mexico.

### Colombia Must Invest More in Security

The principal objective of the negotiations is to end the armed conflict. Unquestionably, however, the end of guerrilla violence is not the end of violence in Colombia. It contributes considerably, but other problems persist that the government is not fully dealing with through the national strategy against violence.

Regardless of the peace policy's results, the country must invest more in security, and in justice. For the national government, defense expenses are closely linked to the country's economic development, as well as to the strengthening of democracy. The creation of an atmosphere of security capable of offering guarantees to the various economic sectors depends to a great extent on increased national investments in anything that may contribute to strengthening the performance of the public force and the administration of justice.

Therefore, the national government has been carrying out projects to update, modernize, and foster the well-being of national security and defense institutions. In February 1991, the energy and highway plan was set in motion by the public force, to offer effective protection in critical areas of the national infrastructure that have been targets of terrorist activities by the guerrillas, who want to halt the country's development and prevent communities from attaining improved standards of living.

This plan, which has been implemented with the citizens' cooperation, has led to the establishment of specialized units.

Moreover, higher expenditures in the area of security have led to the creation of new Anti-Extortion and Kidnapping Units to combat these crimes that are the mainstay of armed groups. Intelligence services have also been strengthened, especially through investments in equipment and maintenance services.

Within the framework of the national anti-violence strategy and in keeping with the guidelines established by the National Council for Economic and Social Policy, the national government has also promoted projects to modernize the public force and improve the well-being of its members.

The government has committed itself to actively defend citizens' rights. The country today has new judicial institutions: Prosecutor General's Office, Constitutional Court, High Council of the Judiciary, ombudsman, and

special jurisdictions. The creation of these organizations required a considerable increase in the judicial budget and a great administrative effort.

All this seeks to give greater autonomy to the judicial branch, bring citizens and the community closer to the branches of justice, control the branches' activities, relieve the workload in judicial offices, establish stricter disciplinary measures to make the administration of justice more efficient, and build a modern criminal investigation system in keeping with the ever increasing challenges of organized crime.

The rights of citizens affected by crime are also protected by the Prosecutor General's Office, which organizes and strengthens the mechanisms available to the state to punish the most serious human rights violations for which penal sanctions have been established. The ombudsman will not only help disseminate a culture of tolerance and mutual respect; he is also sufficiently empowered to serve as an instrument to inject dynamism in the new mechanisms created to protect such rights.

Dialogue has been used in Colombia on various occasions to end conflicts and armed uprisings. This procedure is not foreign to our democratic tradition. To cite the most recent example, in the past four years guerrilla groups—Popular Liberation Army, 19 April Movement, Quintin Lame Commando Unit, and Revolutionary Workers Party—have demobilized and joined civilian life. This involved a slow and often difficult process whose final result revived national hopes for a peaceful solution to the armed conflict through a dialogue.

The government believes it is clear that the dialogue is not the cause of violence. I agree with you that the dialogue is a resource of civilized man to achieve results. However, I disagree with you that the circumstances surrounding the dialogue are confusing. They are truly variable but that is, frankly, because of the incoherent attitude displayed by the guerrillas, who insist on carrying out acts of terrorism, kidnapping, and murder.

The government opened the possibility of a dialogue abroad to initially seek, on a priority basis, an agreement to establish a cease-fire and end the hostilities. It would be an agreement that would enable the peace process to advance in Colombia.

I would like, however, to focus on the government's dialogue policy explained in the document entitled: "Proposals to End the Armed Conflict."

This policy is based on an undeniable fact—shared by all Colombians—which is that the new constitutional order offers sufficient guarantees for guerrillas and all sectors of society to defend their ideas, without having to resort to weapons and violence.

You are all aware that the process of political change and institutional reform in Colombia has been an outstanding example in this hemisphere. The democratic process gave us a new Constitution, the goal of which is to provide peace for Colombians. National support of the institutions was strengthened. The legality of the democratic system and general rejection of violence were established as unquestionable guidelines in the political arena.

What has happened in Colombia in the last few years is truly a peaceful revolution. Practically everything has been reformed: the electoral system, the administration of justice, the Congress, and the role of municipalities and regions. There is a broader democracy with a larger representation. Colombia is not a stagnant society. We find ourselves amid increasing development and there is a challenge to carry out many of the changes provided for in the Constitution.

The government reiterates the principle that dialogue is useful only to the extent that it can succeed in ending the armed conflict. The government is not willing to sponsor talks just so the guerrillas can be in the limelight. The government is not intimidated by the terrorism carried out by the guerrillas.

In reality, the challenge the guerrillas have is none other than to demonstrate that they are willing to engage in politics without weapons and that violence has not become a way of life and form of existence for them which they simply cannot abandon.

The government asks the guerrillas to state their demands before the country, because the reason they remain up in arms is not known. The government, once the topics of the cease-fire and kidnappings have been discussed, is willing to explain its policies and to propose that diverse sectors of national life express their views on the proposed topics.

The government is convinced that the peace process has entered a stage in which certain topics are being broached. The government also makes it clear that it cannot reach any agreement on a topic proposed by the guerrillas until a cease-fire is implemented and hostilities cease. That will be a demonstration of the guerrillas' will for peace and of their real and transparent will to carry the process to its last stages, that is, to begin the transition from an armed group to a political organization. That will be the "acid test" which will show that the guerrilla spokespersons are truly interested in peace and not in using dialogue as an excuse to continue to wage war.

The country would surely not understand if the government and some social sectors were to make important efforts toward the attainment of peace, such as discussing topics slowly and democratically, while the guerrillas simply do not commit themselves to anything. No. The talks cannot be a stage for political or ideological confrontation or just an academic exercise. The talks must be a stage for reaching agreements that will make peace possible. The government has already appointed a high-level commission to discuss the agenda for these topics and to search for agreements once a cease-fire has been achieved. This high-level commission comprises

ministers, deputy ministers, managers of government institutions, and presidential advisers, who, in accordance with the specific topic, are the government spokespersons. The entire group is coordinated and directed by the government minister and the peace adviser. This has the objective of making the talks more fluent and shows the government's willingness to reach agreements. It is also an unequivocal demonstration that the government takes the talks seriously.

The government has stated clearly that the guerrillas cannot continue their attacks, which cause destruction and death, and that the cease-fire is an essential and priority element for the process to be viewed with credibility by the citizens. The cease-fire must be clearly verifiable: In other words, it must contain all the elements and rules to permit it to be fulfilled and respected. It should not end up as has occurred in our country in the past: With the increase of violence and with the presence of armed groups acting with complete impunity.

The government has maintained that the way to verify the cease- fire is to have the guerrilla fronts temporarily gathered in clearly delimited areas within a preestablished period. This would permit control by the authorities of the area and would make it possible to draw up clear rules on the presence of the guerrilla fronts.

Once a cease-fire is achieved and hostilities end, which are understood in their broadest sense as a suspension of all outlawed activities by the guerrillas, the government will transfer the dialogue to Colombia; seek agreements on the topics of the agenda; and grant certain guerrilla spokespersons special status as representatives in the dialogue and in all political events related to the peace process.

We view this as a realistic, sensible, and possible endeavor. It is likely that many of these ideas can be improved. The government, of course, is willing to do so. What is clear is that these are the proper procedures, respectful of our democratic traditions and principles.

There is nothing that Colombians should mistrust. It is an open and transparent process. That is why it was made public so that everyone will know the path the government is taking.

In legislative reform matters, the government has said it will not go beyond promoting spaces to discuss the respective guarantees, because many reforms are the unavoidable responsibility of the Congress.

In matters of regional dialogues for peace, the government maintains that they are useful to the extent that they are carried out by the civilian society and its spokespersons, without the intimidating presence of armed groups. These are scenarios to seek solidarity and to take up with the authorities how society feels about the problems of violence. They are also scenarios for the citizens to protest against those who promote violence.

As long as the guerrillas adopt a clear position with the fatherland in mind, in keeping with the historic moment and with the ideals of 30 million Colombians, we can progress on a path that will leave behind once and for all this blind violent struggle among Colombians.

Yours truly,
Cesar Gaviria Trujillo

### Government Minister Comments

*PA2804164892 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] Government Minister Humberto de la Calle said that if circumstances warrant, the government could declare a state of internal unrest [comocion interna] so that events do not get out of hand as a result of Telecom's [Colombian Telecommunications Enterprise] strike and the labor unions' active support of it. De la Calle said, however, that matters do not yet warrant declaring a state of internal unrest. The minister also made reference today to the possible suspension of dialogue with the guerrillas in Mexico; this time at the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board's [CNGSB] request. We have here Minister De La Calle's statements:

[Begin de la Calle recording] I want to point out that the government would not hesitate, if necessary, to resort to special measures to quell any possible uprising. I do not foresee an uprising the way things look now, but either way, the government will not lack the will nor the determination to act according to the Constitution in this regard. True, there is a certain amount of labor union agitation, but in my opinion there will not be a national strike. Should this occur, the government is capable of controlling the situation. [end recording]

The government minister said it was not desirable to suspend the dialogue with the CNGSB, as has been suggested by the rebels' spokesmen in Tlaxcala, Mexico.

[Begin de la Calle recording] It is truly a disappointment when the government decides to attend the negotiating table—due to the church's mediation—and accepts the agenda proposed by Father Nel Beltran, but the CNGSB's response is for a possible suspension of the dialogue. If the talks are suspended, we will simply have to accept this; if one party wants a recess one cannot force the dialogue. This is a disappointment for the government though, and in our opinion the guerrillas continue to avoid stating their position on the kidnapping issue in a clear, categorical, and definite manner. [end recording]

From Mexico, the CNGSB spokesmen said that based on the government's stance at the negotiating table this week, they would either continue the dialogue or request a recess that could last several months.

It is not official yet, but the CNGSB has already suggested a desire to suspend the dialogue. This could have dangerous consequences.

It would put at risk the last opportunity for a peaceful solution; it would also mean the beginning of a period of

intense violence and terrorism. The violence would be the result of an all-out offensive by the Armed Forces to end the conflict by force; by the paramilitary, who would feel supported politically in their ambitions to exterminate the guerrillas; and the guerrillas, who would amplify their actions to demonstrate power. Terrorism would make life unbearable in the cities, the people would eventually feel forced to ask for peace at any price. We saw this happen when drug traffickers terrorized the community to obtain support for non-extradition, that was the price paid for peace. Under these circumstances, the government is faced with a very difficult situation. If the government maintains a firm position of not entering into a dialogue unless the agenda is modified, it runs the risk of disrupting the dialogue. The disruption of the dialogue could trigger a wave of violence that would induce public opinion to ask for peace at any price.

### Rewards Offered To Rebels

*PA2804170792 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Apr 92 pp 1-A, 5-B*

[Report by Edgar Tellez]

[Text] The increasing number of guerrilla desertions has given military strategists a new idea: They have created, for the first time, an economic incentive for those who leave the rebel groups.

Thus, through a new propaganda campaign, the Army has promised to buy the weapons from rebels who surrender at any Armed Forces garrison in the country.

The "invitation" to turn themselves in and sell their weapons is being made through 500,000 flyers that have been distributed from airplanes and helicopters since 23 April.

The flyers are also being handed out by military patrols and at road blocks in areas where the rebels are known to have great influence.

The leaflet offers 100,000 pesos for rifles of any caliber and 40,000 pesos for pistols or revolvers.

Military sources reported that, on average, each rebel in Colombia has a rifle and a pistol or revolver, which means that an estimated 12,000 active rebels carry approximately 25,000 long- and short-range weapons.

The text of one of the flyers reads: "Make a good decision. Surrender to any Army patrol and you will be rewarded. Long-range weapons, 100,000 pesos; short-range weapons, 40,000 pesos. We will gladly ensure your safety."

An Army spokesman reported that the Army only recently decided to offer money for the weapons of surrendering rebels. Before, rebels who abandoned the insurgency were given protection and some money to travel wherever they wanted.

This newspaper learned unofficially that 100 million pesos had been allotted for purchasing those weapons.

Another military source said "this campaign has full legal validity and fits within the framework of the plans, endorsed by the government, to disarm the population."

#### "Tirofijo" [Manuel Marulanda Velez] Speaks

The strategy will be aimed mainly at the seven fronts of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) that operate in Meta and Huila Departments. These fronts are in charge of protecting the organization's secretariat, which has been running from the Army for 15 months.

In that area of the country, under the jurisdiction of the Army's 4th Division, approximately 50 rebels have deserted this year as a result of pressure exerted by 1,800 soldiers.

To take better advantage of the rebels' apparent weakness, the Army plans to install a radio station in a town in the La Uribe area, south of Meta Department.

That way, in addition to the institutional propaganda, the Army will transmit statements from fighters who abandoned their companions.

Meanwhile, it was learned on 23 April that Manuel Marulanda Velez, also known as "Tirofijo," top chief of the FARC, has already issued instructions to counter that military strategy.

"Tirofijo" has ordered front-line commanders to carry out a detailed study of the men under their command and decide which would be tempted by the proposal.

## Peru

### Fujimori To Consider 'Alternatives' to Schedule

*PA2904142792 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has announced new changes in the government. He said his government is willing to consider other alternatives to the schedule presented for the return to democracy. President Fujimori said he was not involved in the appointment of the new attorney general and that soon he will be making changes within that organization.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] I did not appoint Dr. Hugo Denegri. He was already at the Attorney General's Office. At a later date we will make changes within that organization.

[Unidentified reporter] Does this mean that more changes within the Attorney General's Office will be made?

[Fujimori] Yes, of course. It was known that this would happen. The offices are being filled according to importance; but it was not a [word indistinct] appointment.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what do you think of the schedule for a dialogue to begin on 30 April as announced by First Vice President Maximo San Roman?

[Fujimori] The truth is that I have no knowledge of that.

[Reporter] They are planning to propose a constituent assembly.

[Fujimori] Now listen; the people have adopted a clear stance. The people want direct participation. The people want more democracy. They want a democracy like the one they see in other countries, for example, Switzerland. In Switzerland they hold plebiscites, the people are consulted. Why can't the Peruvian people have this direct participation? That is precisely what we are suggesting, more democracy. We are suggesting that the measures to be adopted and constitutional precepts not be agreed on in negotiations among various groups that meet behind closed doors.

[Reporter] Countries like the United States are suggesting that the scheduled deadlines be shorter.

[Fujimori] If there are other alternatives I would like to study and analyze them to see if they are feasible. We have suggested a feasible schedule. For example, the deadline to regulate 2 million voting cards for 2 million citizens cannot be done in 30 days. We need time to do that. I repeat, the people's participation is essential. The polls show that a majority of the people agree. A poll firm has reported that 91.5 percent of the people want a plebiscite. Let us respect the people's wishes. [end recording]

## San Roman Proposes 'Transition Government'

*PA2904034792 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0137 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] Maximo San Roman, who was proclaimed constitutional president by the dissolved Congress, on 28 April proposed the establishment of a constituent assembly on 5 July and its formal installation on 28 July. He said that President Alberto Fujimori, his two vice presidents, and the legislature would have to resign. As a result, a transition government would be formed, he added.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The senator of the dissolved Congress said that the presence of UN and OAS observers would provide the guarantees for the election of that assembly. The schedule presented by San Roman, on a personal basis, is as follows:

After its election on 5 July, the constituent assembly would be installed on 28 July. As a result, President Fujimori, San Roman himself, Carlos Garcia Garcia, and the entire legislature would resign. On that date the assembly would elect a transition government.

On 31 October this organization would promulgate constitutional reforms and call general elections for 31 January 1993, when the president of the Republic and the legislature would be elected. The democratic transfer would take place on 1 April 1993.

In a news conference at his residence, San Roman said this proposal shows there is no intention of assuming a dominant role. He added that the first consultation on this proposal would be held on 30 April 1992 during a dialogue to which he invited all sectors.

[San Roman] All political parties have the same goal: Bring back democratic institutionality to our people.

[Reporter] Was there a proposal on their part for you to present this at the meeting that took place on 27 April?

[San Roman] I am presenting this proposal on a personal basis because all the political parties have granted me powers. They have granted me full autonomy and total support. [end recording]

## Foreign Minister Takes Office; Envoys Attend

*PA2804234792 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] Oscar de la Puente, the new Peruvian foreign relations minister, has taken office. Colombian Ambassador Jaime Gutierrez, who just returned from Bogota, Ecuadoran Ambassador Eduardo Ponce, and Chilean Ambassador Alfonso Rivero arrived in Lima solely to attend the official presentation of Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente.

## IMF Approves Government Economic Program

*PY2904000792 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 18 Apr 92 p 1*

[Report by Juan Zuniga Sanudo]

[Text] Washington, 17 Apr—The IMF executive board tonight approved the first review of the Peruvian stabilization program. It recommended the implementation of a special accumulated drawing rights program, for an as yet unspecified amount, to refinance the Peruvian debt with the IMF.

Peru has a matured debt of $800 million with the IMF. It will be refinanced through the "accumulated drawing rights" program.

The Peruvian issue was the last on the agenda and was extensively discussed and commented upon by the IMF executive managers who attended the meeting.

The board also agreed to discuss the program again, particularly the vital financing for the month of June.

They also decided to analyze the situation of the Support Group, the members of which are reevaluating the group's performance in light of the events of 5 April [date of Fujimori's self-coup].

The period to be analyzed is from July 1991 to March 1992.

IMF executive board sources have leaked that the stabilization program and the performance of Peruvian officials have been praised enthusiastically by the representatives of the United States, Japan, Germany, France, and Spain, among others.

Minister Bolona did not attend the meeting, but talked to key IMF executive managers before leaving Washington.

Executive Manager Alejandro Vegh of Uruguay represents Peruvian interests.

Experts believe that the meeting scheduled for June is a sort of yellow light to the Peruvian Government, because the financing of the rest of the program will depend upon the Support Group members, who have expressed a certain concern over the Peruvian situation since 5 April.

The stabilization program and the accumulated drawing rights were approved, with some difficulty, on 12 September 1991 following the establishment of the Support Group. This was the result of a great effort and several trips to three continents. At that time $1.1 billion aid was promised.

Only Japan, France, and Switzerland have so far disbursed their portions of that amount. The United States—the group's co-leader—has yet to contribute its promised $400 million.

The program will reportedly be completed by December 1992.

### New Attorney General on Policies, Human Rights

*PA2904121092 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] Hugo Denegri Cornejo, the new attorney general, said on 29 April that all cases deserving an investigation will be handled in a clear and honest way. He said human rights will be respected at all times. Denegri made these statements upon leaving the swearing-in ceremony for the new supreme court magistrates:

[Begin recording] [Denegri] We will try, to the best of our ability, to do a dynamic, efficient, and swift job, with the aid of the government prosecutors and attorneys.

[Unidentified reporter] Will all major cases, such as the clothing donations at the Presidency, for example, be investigated?

[Denegri] We have always investigated all cases. We have fought hard against all odds, and we have won in the end. [break in reception]

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Denegri] It has always has been that way because the law demands it.

[Reporter] What can you tell those who have questioned your appointment?

[Denegri] They are free. That is freedom of thought and expression, and it must be respected.

[Reporter] How is the human rights issue going to be handled at the Attorney General's Office?

[Denegri] The constant defense of human rights and citizens' rights is the duty of the Attorney General's Office. The Attorney General's Office signifies that all the government attorneys—district, provincial, and the attorney general— are defenders of the people.

[Reporter] Can the people trust the changes in the administration of justice this time?

[Denegri] They can trust the changes because we all want justice across all of Peru. We want to become a model for Latin America and the world. We have the conditions....

[Reporter, interrupting] What about the Constitution?

[Denegri] We have efficient people who are aware or....

[Reporter, interrupting] Why should the people trust?

[Denegri] One must always have hope. Hope should never die.

[Reporter] How can a lawyer be appointed as attorney general, all of a sudden, when it is said that he has violated the Constitution?

[Denegri] Look now, jurists work within a sphere of laws. This sphere is the Constitution, legal rights, and positive laws. Many times throughout history—and this is quite commonplace even in Latin America—that sphere is broken, and uncertainty takes over. Then the new law slowly rises, as Recasensky and Radbrook used to call it and as Zamora Valdez once taught. We must strengthen this new law, instead of working in anarchy and without control and order of any kind. We must strengthen that new law and create the foundation for a more just, dynamic, and efficient element. I want... [pauses] and I have said this repeatedly, I do not want the courts of this country to be the death-place of the law, but a place where people are changed. I want it to be a place where even criminals can find comfort. [end recording]

### Alan Garcia Charged

*PY2804233592 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 21 Apr 92 p A6*

[Text] Interior Ministry Prosecutor Mario Federico Cavagnaro Basile has formally filed charges with the attorney general's office against former President Alan Garcia Perez and former Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla Campos for alleged illegal possession of weapons. The latter is also charged with alleged abuse of authority and embezzlement.

Cavagnaro filed the charges at midday yesterday at the 42d Lima District Attorney's office, which is currently receiving cases, just five days after the government issued three ministerial decrees authorizing him to begin

legal action against the former president—who is currently underground—and his former interior minister, who has been detained at a National Police hospital.

Attorney Sonia Tapia has replaced Attorney Luisa Garcia Gatti, the head of the 42d Lima District Attorney's office who is currently on sick leave. She received and will investigate the charges filed by Cavagnaro.

Cavagnaro's charges are based on Ministerial Resolution No. 385-92-IN/DM, published on 15 April in EL PERUANO, which authorizes him to begin legal proceedings against Alan Garcia Perez, secretary general of the Aprista Party of Peru (PAP), and any others guilty of illegally possessing, carrying, and using weapons which are exclusively used by the Armed Forces and the Peruvian National Police.

The resolution states that weapons and explosives were seized during a military operation on 5 April at the PAP's headquarters. The police are currently determining whether the seized weapons were used to perpetrate any of the many unsolved murders and crimes during the past few years.

Mario Cavagnaro was also authorized, through Supreme Resolution No. 383-92-IN/DM, signed by Interior Minister Juan Briones Davila, to begin penal action against Maximo Agustin Mantilla Campos for allegedly possessing, carrying, and using the weapons and bombs found in his home.

Attorney Cavagnaro was also authorized to begin legal action against the former interior minister and nine other people for alleged disobedience and neglect which harmed the State, and for abuse of authority and embezzlement of $1,123,111 which belonged to the Police Social Security Fund (Fospolis) and the State.

The following is the list of other accused people: Jose Uchuya Capcha and Cesar Quesada Cueto, former Interior Ministry employees; Pedro Monzon Abate and Juan Antonio Angulo Alcantara, former employees of the National Bank; and the following former National Police officers: retired General Manuel Galvan Montoya; Colonels Alfredo Altamirano Cordero, Guillermo Quinonez Chavez, and Felipe Nicho Oloya; and Captain Nicolas Fuentes Palomino.

The 42d District Attorney's Office disclosed that it is assessing Attorney Mario Federico Cavagnaro Basile's charges and that as soon as the attorney general's office resumes activities on 27 April it will be decided whether or not to formalize the charges against Alan Garcia Perez and Mantilla Campos before the judicial branch.

## Supreme Court President, Judges Resign Position

*PY2904130092 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 22 Apr 92 p 12*

[Summary] Supreme Court President Luis Portugal Rondon and Supreme Court Judges Cesar Fernandez Arce and Ricardo Nugent Lopez Chavez have resigned their positions. Only Supreme Court Judge Luis Serpa Segura remains in his position.

In their resignation letters they state that, "because the constitutional order was disrupted in the country, they cannot remain in their positions."

## Serpa Elected President

*PA2904030392 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0131 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] Dr. Luis Eduardo Serpa Segura was elected Supreme Court president at a plenary session of the Supreme Court on the afternoon of 28 April.

Serpa has had a long record as a magistrate who recently has been in charge of the administrative department. He was also a member of the special court in charge of the famous Churacay case. In addition to being an instructor, he has always been known for being an honest magistrate.

## Decree Appoints Central Bank Executive Board

*PY2804143092 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 27 Apr 92 pp 106564, 106565*

[Decree Law No. 25453 issued by the Peruvian Government in Lima on 25 April]

[Text] Decree Law No. 25453

The President of the Republic
Heading the Emergency and National Reconstruction Government
With the Approval of the Council of Ministers
Issues the Following Decree Law:

Article 1. To appoint, as of 25 April, German Suarez Chavez as president of the Central Reserve Bank [BCR] Executive Board in keeping with the Guidelines of the Emergency and National Reconstruction Government Law.

Article 2. To appoint, as of 25 April, Henry Barclay Rey de Castro, Mario Tovar Velarde, and Manuel Estela Benavides as BCR Executive Board members in keeping with the Guidelines of the Emergency and National Reconstruction Government Law.

Issued at Government House in Lima on 25 April 1992.

Alberto Fujimori Fujimori—Constitutional President of the Republic
Oscar de la Puente Raygada—Council of Ministers President and Foreign Affairs Minister
Victor Malca Villanueva—Peruvian Army Division General and Defense Minister
Carlos Bolona Behr—Economy and Finance Minister
Juan Briones Davila—Peruvian Army Division General and Defense Minister
Fernando Vega Santa Gadea—Justice Minister
Victor Paredes Guerra—Health Minister
Absalon Vasquez Villanueva—Agriculture Minister

Jorge Camet Dickmann—Industry, Foreign Trade, Tourism, and Integration Minister
Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka—Energy and Mines Minister
Augusto Antonioli Vasquez—Labor and Social Promotion Minister
Alfredo Ross Antezana—Transportation and Communications Minister
Jaime Sobero Taira—Fisheries Minister

I hereby order publication and enforcement of this decree.

Lima, 25 April 1992

Alberto Fujimori Fujimori, constitutional president of the Republic
Oscar de la Puente Raygada, Council of Ministers president and foreign affairs minister
Carlos Bolona Behr, economy and finance minister

### President, Board Sworn In

*PA2904121192 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] German Suarez Chavez, the new acting president of the Central Reserve Bank, was sworn in on 28 April by Jose Antonio Silva Vallejo, the acting president of the Supreme Court. In his first statements, Suarez said that the monetary policy will not change and the bank will not resort to money printing. He added that he will ensure respect for the bank's autonomy. Other members of the bank's board of the directors were also sworn in:

[Begin recording] [Suarez] The board of directors that will accompany me at the Central Reserve Bank is made up of officials with vast experience in the area of central banks. The board of directors will safeguard the central bank's autonomy and will fulfill efficiently the duties assigned to them by its charter law.

[Reporter] Will the monetary policy be changed?

[Suarez] The monetary policy will continue to be applied efficiently to ensure the success of the stabilization program.

[Reporter] As for the exchange rate parity that certain industrialists were complaining about, sir, what will be...

[Suarez, interrupting] Within the context of the economic program the central bank will continue to implement its policy of issuing money in keeping with already established goals. In other words, it will not resort to money printing to finance deficits or grant credits to the public treasury. We will very carefully and closely monitor our issuance policy of monetary expansion to prevent price imbalances and ensure a type of exchange rate...

[Reporter, interrupting] [Words indistinct] ...to apply ironclad control because, for example, it is said that your appointment indicates that the president of the Republic will be directly controlling and this means that...

[Suarez, interrupting] I repeat, I as president, and the other members of the board of directors feel fully autonomous. We are determined to implement a defined position, that is, to support the government's stabilization process. [end recording]

### Ministry Communique on U.S. Drug Report

*PY2804184692 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 18 Apr 92 p A10*

[Text] Defense Ministry

Official Communique No. 1

The Defense Ministry thinks it is appropriate to inform the public that:

1. In light of current political circumstances, television, radio, and written media have disseminated reports saying that Bernard Aronson, U.S. assistant secretary for Inter-American affairs, had brought to the country a list of 120 officers who are linked to drug trafficking;

2. As a result, the Army general and president of the Joint Command asked this ministry to take the necessary steps to obtain a report on the subject from the U.S. Embassy in Peru, leading to a request that was made through Note 2200 SGMD-A [expansion unknown] on 11 April;

3. On 15 April, the head of the U.S. diplomatic mission, Ambassador Anthony C.E. Quainton, informed this ministry that the U.S. Government does not have a list of officers allegedly involved in drug-trafficking activities. The report also stresses that Mr. Bernard Aronson, assistant secretary for Inter-American affairs, did not carry any list such as the one mentioned above.

4. Considering that elements interested in tarnishing the Armed Forces' image could again circulate rumors attacking the institution and influence the media and national and international public opinion, this ministry advises citizens to be alert to prevent such acts from having their intended effect. The ministry assures citizens that the institution will carry out an investigation if presented with reports regarding any type of crimes involving Armed Forces personnel and will severely sanction those responsible, regardless of the possibility of making a report to the appropriate court authorities if the report prove correct, because the Armed Forces act within the framework of respect for the laws and human rights.

Lima, 17 April
Defense Ministry's Communications Office

### Government Rejects Challenge to Previous Decrees

*PA2804200792 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1814 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] Through Decree Law 25454, the national emergency and reconstruction government established the inadmissibility of the action of amparo to directly or indirectly challenge the effects of the application of

Decree Laws 25423, 25442, and 25446. The measure also establishes that for the effects of the application of Decree Law 25447, the requirements of age and time as judges, attorneys, and university professors are not in force. All provisions that run counter to the decree law, which goes into effect on 28 April, are suspended.

### State Broadcasting Company Officials Resign

*PA2904031692 Lima Radio Programas del Peru in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] The president of the Council of Ministers has accepted the resignation of three members of the board of directors of the Peruvian radio, television, and cinema enterprise. Maria Isabel Vites Gamarra, Jose Lay Sue, and Carlos Orellana Quintanilla stepped down from their posts on the board of directors of Peruvian Radio and Television, RTP.

## Venezuela

### Need To Revise Andean Pact Strategies Stressed

*PA2804233092 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] Foreign Relations Minister Humberto Calderon Berti has stressed the urgent need to revise the new strategies and position that should be adopted by the Andean Pact in view of the situation that exists in the region as a result of the institutional coup orchestrated in Peru by President Alberto Fujimori.

After reporting to President Carlos Andres Perez, Calderon Berti stated that the meeting to be held in Quito by the members of the Andean Pact is a technical meeting. He also said the Andean Pact should not suffer great changes as a result of what has occurred in Peru.

Additionally, Calderon Berti stated that it is necessary to have constant communications with Colombia, Ecuador, and Bolivia. He also added that those countries are willing to maintain the situation that existed before the institutional coup in Peru.

Upon being asked about the situation in Peru, Calderon Berti stated that, unfortunately, President Fujimori last week issued a decree eliminating the preferential treatment that had been established with regard to external tariffs, and that this establishes a new situation that is to be analyzed in the Quito meeting.

[Begin Calderon recording] I believe the results we have obtained with the Andean Pact in the last 18 months are undoubtedly much more positive than the results that we had obtained in many previous years. The circumstances have really changed. The world today uses different formulas, and this has helped to accelerate rapprochement and the process of integration, especially following the Barahona Document of 1990. [end recording]

### Student Demonstrations Reported in Puerto Cabello

*PA2904002492 Paris AFP in Spanish 2240 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, 28 Apr (AFP)—Eighteen students were arrested on 28 April during demonstrations in Puerto Cabello, located 100 km northeast of Caracas, local radio stations have reported.

The students tried to take over the mayor's office in Puerto Cabello, demanding better maintenance for the buses transporting them to the University of Carabobo in Valencia (100 km west of Caracas). According to reporters, the police repressed the students with tear gas.

Last week, there were student riots in Merida, 500 km southeast of Caracas while policemen were on strike. During those demonstrations, four trucks were burned and more than 12 business establishments were looted.

### * Released Soldiers Allegedly in Limbo

*92SM0346B Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 24 Mar 92 p 8*

[Article by Ibis Helena Mendoza: "Nearly 300 Soldiers Have Not Returned to Duty; As They Have Nothing To Do, Many of Them May Leave the Service"; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Despite the dismissal of charges against them by decision of President Carlos Perez, 290 professional soldiers of the FAN [National Armed Forces] reportedly are threatened with separation from the armed forces. Their superior officers reportedly have not respected the finding of Judge Moreno Natera that there is no evidence to support charges of rebellion against them.

Nearly 300 military personnel who were cleared of responsibility for the 4 February disturbances [abortive coup d'etat of 4 February] due to a lack of sufficient evidence against them are presently in judicial limbo. Their superior officers are reportedly refusing to return them to duty. This was the situation well before "the presidential pardon" was extended to them on 18 March.

Among the military personnel involved are a lieutenant colonel and several majors, captains, and regular soldiers of the FAN. In general they have not been treated in the same way as those against whom action has been suspended. There are 290 military personnel in this situation who, "since no one wants them," have reportedly been left without assignments in the hope that they will apply for discharge from the service. All of this has been done without taking into account the fact that their presumed involvement in the military uprising has not been supported by at least two pieces of evidence against them. Their status is unlike that of the military personnel against whom action was suspended. The 290 military personnel were pardoned without any previous finding regarding their innocence or guilt.

Persons familiar with military justice say that "it is not fair for these military personnel to be treated differently when, as we shall see, they are less guilty than those who benefited from the suspension of action against them after Ramon Moreno Natera, the second military judge, issued orders for their arrest."

These sources emphasized that an arrest order is issued when there are at least two pieces of evidence against a person. The suspension of action announced by Minister of National Defense General Fernando Ochoa Antich on 18 March affected nearly 80 military personnel against whom orders of arrest were pending.

The sources meant that it was paradoxical that those freed under Article 186 of the Code of Criminal Proceedings still have not been allowed to return to their duties, while those pardoned with "the stroke of a pen by President Perez, giving them a fresh start," are being reassigned in the FAN.

At no time did the persons interviewed oppose the presidential action based on the Code of Military Justice, since this is a prerogative of the president. In the last analysis, he is the director of military justice. However, they based their position on what they consider an unfair attitude toward the military personnel who have not been returned to duty. The court handling their cases was unable to find at least two pieces of evidence on which to base action against them.

**No Legal Defense**

Reporters who cover the military courts thought that lawyers would lose interest in these cases when action was suspended on those cases the president has under consideration. However, the reality is completely different. New lawyers, fresh to these cases, are daily reviewing the voluminous file containing allegations of rebellion that resulted from the failed coup d'etat. An example of such activity is J. Dominguez Burgos, an attorney for the military personnel facing legal action, who represents some of those held at San Carlos Barracks in connection with the events of 4 February.

Of course, it became quietly known that a new procedure would be in effect for those who refuse to be held under orders of arrest. Instead of doing first one thing and then something else, they would reportedly choose to appoint their defense attorneys without previously having been notified of the judgments made in the case. It is said that this course of action reflects their interest in knowing what their situation is regarding this case and then deciding whether to continue their line of resistance. If they refuse to continue in prison, they could be freed without any further difficulty.

Two lawyers who continue to be frequent visitors and readers of the proceedings in the courts are Gustavo Cedillo Vaz and Luis Moros Ghersi. These two men have continued to work without a letup, despite the fact that action has been suspended on the cases of five military personnel whom they are defending. This leaves seven other military personnel. The highest ranking officer in this second group stated with some bitterness, "The majors who led the rebellion have no legal but rather a political defense." The political defense "is the only way that could be applicable to them. It could not apply to those whom they commanded. This is because using a political defense would involve recognizing the direct participation of the majors in the events of 4 February, in full awareness of what was being done."

This officer continued: "Reading the case file is enough to realize that a great majority of the officers and non commissioned officers involved in the events of 4 February acted on the basis of deceit or information that was very different from the real reasons or ideals the group of majors had."

Cedillo Vaz pointed out that a conscientious lawyer has the task of successfully defending his client, observing and using what has been alleged and proved in the documents of the case, and not raising subjective views held under a commitment that now seems to have been more political than military. He continued: "Political groups always make use of military developments for their own party benefit." He recalled that in October 1945 AD [Democratic Action] was favored in this way. After 23 January 1958 Unidad [Unity Coalition] was used, while the "Carupanazo" and the "Portenazo" were unfavorably known to the leftists who were defeated in 1960.

He said: "The democratic calm that prevailed until 4 February led to a kind of 'protest from the people in uniform,' which had clear popular support as long as it maintained political and nonpartisan purity, as apparently is happening now. If this is true, the people will feel frustrated and will wait for a new opportunity...."

Regarding those whom Cedillo Vaz is defending, he repeated that both he and Moros Ghersi are currently active as lawyers. However, they do not accept instructions from party committees, political parties, or groups that try to manipulate "this protest movement for purposes other than the defense to which every person on trial has a right." He emphasized that he and Moros Ghersi are military officers and are not politicians subject to manipulation.

**Investigation of the Indictment**

Air Force Major Edalberto Contreras, the senior judge of the Permanent Military Court of First Instance in Caracas, who is investigating the death of a 20-year-old second lieutenant at La Casona estate during the 4 February clashes, is making progress on the task he has been given. However, due to the confidentiality of the case, he did not wish to make any statement to the press.

He said dryly, "We are working on the matter." However, the confidentiality of the case does not keep us from supposing that he might have sent a questionaire to Manuel Heinz Azpurua, the director of DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services], to find

out the names of the personnel of that security organization who were assigned to the presidential residence between the evening of 3 February and the early morning hours of 4 February.

Perhaps someone was summoned to appear before the court, but as of 22 March no particular movement in that court was seen.

### * Justice Minister on Prison Reform, Crisis

*92SM0347A Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish Section D 23 Mar 92 p 6*

[Article by Victor Manuel Reinoso: "Ten Percent of the 35,000 Prison Inmates Could Be Released"]

[Text] "The problem of prison crowding is a complex one. The community is demanding security—the protection of lives and property and the freedom to walk the streets without fear of being attacked. The Venezuelan citizens' demand for a tranquil life plays a prominent role, alongside the campaign being waged against the plague of corruption."

This statement was made by Jose Mendoza Angulo, 54, who is the current minister of justice. He spoke to EL NACIONAL after paying a visit to Attorney General Ramon Escovar Salom during which he discussed this and other subjects pertaining to justice.

"The concern about security is a widespread feeling," he said, "but in the Venezuelan prisons, we are facing another tremendous problem—the crowding about which everyone knows. The building of prisons and the designing of establishments for incarceration has come to a halt in Venezuela. The population has grown, and because of the social and economic crises, crimes have increased and masses of human beings have had to be put in prison.

"I have been told that there are 35,000 inmates in the Venezuelan prisons built to accommodate about 12,000. Given this saturation, the incidents that are being reported daily in the media—deaths, injuries, and trafficking in drugs and weapons, as well as inhuman treatment of prisoners—come as no surprise," he said.

But he added that "these individuals deserve humane treatment. Therefore, in addition to dealing with the problem of security, we must rationalize the administration of our prisons. Are all of those who should be in prison incarcerated? There are situations there that are the result of the actions of the courts of justice. If we succeed in speeding up trials and getting more judgments rendered, a partial solution can be found.

"With regard to those already sentenced, we must proceed to implement the provisions governing the status of convicts. There is an organic law on the penitentiary system in Venezuela that provides a complex of mechanisms for dealing with convicts who have already completed the greater part of their sentences, have had good conduct records, and have been studied by teams that can place them in work sites, assigning them to an open system or confining them at certain places in the country, and can commute their sentences when this is fully justified. I believe that if these provisions were implemented, some 10 percent of the prisoners, that is to say about 3,500, could be released."

#### Legal Reform

"If, together with the measures described, to which the convicts have a right," Mendoza Angulo added, "other initiatives of a legal nature, such as congressional approval of the Release on Bail Law, which has already been approved by the Senate and is now awaiting approval by the Chamber of Deputies, were adopted, and if we were to add the initiative proposed here at the Ministry of Justice by the Legislation and Codification Committee, which has prepared a draft reform of the Law on Submission to the Courts, the treatment of those who must be imprisoned today could be rationalized. This would make it possible to reduce the congestion in the system."

Mendoza Angulo, who served as rector of the University of the Andes and who left the Senate to serve as minister of justice, explained that the reform of the Law on Court Submissions would change its name to the Law on the Elimination of Trial and Sentencing Delays. Its 24 articles set forth the norms that would govern the requirements and methods for issuing indictments, the conditional suspension of sentences, and the arbitration of cases in judgment. These three mechanisms would make benefits available to a larger number of persons than can now have recourse to the Law on Court Submissions.

Minister Mendoza Angulo said that all of this should be accomplished with a budget representing less than 1 percent of the national budget, wherein the figures do not remain the same, but are even slightly reduced with every passing year.

"Even when the courts were under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice," he said, "the percentage did not exceed 2.5 percent of the national budget, and following the creation of the Court Council, which was given control of all of the courts, the budget was further reduced, although the Ministry still has important work to do with the Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) and the prisons, the court dockets and notaries' offices, and the entire system of criminal records."

Mendoza Angulo added that because of the limited funds available, a policy of reeducation and training could not be developed, although there have been some encouraging experiments. What is needed is a minimum level of physical conditions, which are only found in a few penal establishments. In the others, crowding allows no space for plans to combat idleness, much less activities that would generate income for the prisoners.

**Council's Recommendations**

"I have been very carefully studying some recommendations pertaining to the administration of justice made by the Consultative Council of the Presidency of the Republic," Mendoza Angulo said.

"This would seem to be the subject that is the source of the greatest concern, because of the 38 pages in the report, 10 are devoted to the administration of justice, in the belief that this field extends beyond any single body and should involve several.

"The general policy, then, should be drafted by the national executive branch through the Ministry of Justice, but the Court Council, the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic, the Supreme Court, and the National Congress itself should work with it where the laws are concerned. The collaboration of the universities of the country, where a majority of the judicial administrators are educated, the law schools, etc. is also needed. All of these are involved, as are the media, which carry out educational work to the extent that they understand the problem and act in such a manner as to meet the needs and to resolve the problem.

"Some of the recommendations of the Court Council are designed for the short-term and some for the mid-term range," he said. "And I agree that there are measures that can be adopted immediately on a number of fronts. The government will therefore submit to the Congress drafts of partial amendments to the Organic Law on the Judicial Branch and the Supreme Court of Justice.

"If to these we add the proposed reform of the Law on Court Submissions and the Release on Bail Law, the Congress will have done something important in the justice sector," the minister emphasized.

Mendoza Angulo said the Consultative Council proposed the decentralization of the prisons, as suggested by the criminologists, and proposed that it be discussed with the governors so that they can participate in the management of these centers.

**Help From Students**

The minister of justice describes himself as an educator who dabbled in politics in his youth and returned to it 30 years later. He said he is prepared to seek collaboration from all quarters, and he noted that he spoke recently with the coordinator of the Nucleus of Juridical and Political Science Faculties, which is scheduled to meet in Valencia at the beginning of April. He asked the group to permit him to outline ways in which the various law faculties at the public and private universities could contribute to the judicial sector by assigning students in their final years of study to serve as assistants to the public defenders.

He said Nelson Rodriguez, the dean of the law school at the UCV [Central University of Venezuela], found this a wonderful idea, not only for criminal law, but for registry law as well, which has to do with notaries' offices, public records, the prevention of crime, etc. Some programs could perfectly well be designed to utilize students to provide more prompt attention to prisoners who have no one but God to defend them.

"My idea," he said, "is to spare no effort, to leave no stone unturned, in an effort to achieve harmony, minimal agreements, and concrete actions. During the courtesy visit I just paid to the attorney general, we spoke about some of these issues, and we are aware that some seven institutions in this country are involved in the administration of justice. Much could be achieved if those of us heading these institutions were to meet periodically and put the matters with which we are involved on the agendas for discussion.

"I have here, for example, a document which the Domestic Policy Committee of the Chamber of Deputies sent to me. It pertains to a draft law on the Federal Police. The attorney general believes that it will be possible to work together on this and other subjects and save time."

Minister Mendoza Angulo said he plans to talk with the members of the Court Council and the Supreme Court. He has already spoken with the prosecutor general and has plans to meet with the Federation of Lawyers' Associations and the Judges' Association.

When he was asked about his reaction to the assertions by some public figures that the PTJ should not come under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice, Mendoza Angulo said:

"I think that all of this should be examined without prejudice. I have none. I believe that the state is undergoing a painful rationalization. We agree that there are too many ministries in the country, and it seems desirable to reduce the number of them. And in view of this fact, the best contribution we ministers can make is not to hide behind our desks so that no one can approach us, but to adopt an open attitude instead. If some offices or departments need to be absorbed by others, this should be done."

He said the various departments are being evaluated, but he is unable to say which ones are operating most efficiently. The press serves as his guide in concluding that the most acute problem is that of the prisons. There are many departments, including a religious one, for which reason he has already paid a visit to the cardinal, the apostolic nuncio, and the president of the Bishops' Conference, because Venezuela is an essentially Catholic country in which the Church plays a very important role.

It was pointed out to the minister that his predecessor was not in office very long and apparently had sought to replace some directors. He was asked if he had any problems with the personnel he found at the Ministry of Justice.

"I am evaluating this, and at the proper time I will make the decisions I deem timely," he said. "I do not want to commit any injustices, and I do not want anyone to feel offended. However, if I become convinced that reorganization is needed, I will make the necessary decisions. And if, after a reasonable period of time, I find that I cannot carry out my intentions and my plans to make certain decisions to improve things, I will not stay on here a minute longer."

Mendoza Angulo said the ministers and all the employees must serve the citizens in order to reestablish their credibility.

**Constituent Assembly Needed**

Mendoza Angulo said that given the circumstances that exist in the country, he could not refuse to serve in a ministry that was experiencing problems, and no time limit has been set. However, he said he does indeed enjoy parliamentary work, and if the people of Merida believe he should continue to represent them, he will do so.

The minister of justice admitted that he is optimistic about the country. He said that some delicate aspects of the crisis that arose on 4 February are being dealt with.

"I believe that the most difficult part of the military crisis is behind us. The political crisis remains to be overcome. This is a difficult task, not only because there is an economic and social substratum, which has an effect on attitudes, but also because we are approaching an electoral situation that affects the attitudes of individuals, groups, and parties. The elections for governors and mayors are approaching, and in the coming year, we will hold the election in which the president of the Republic will be chosen. To all of this must be added the referendum to which the amendment of the Constitution will be subjected.

"I see that the community bears a great burden of problems, but I also see an awareness that changes, which in some cases are irreversible, are occurring."

The minister was asked if he believes that once the constitutional reform that is under way has been completed, it will be essential to convene a constituent assembly.

"I personally believe that a constituent assembly should be a part of a complex of changes, which should include the amendment of the Constitution. I think that our Constitution should contain some guarantee to which it is possible to turn at any time when it becomes difficult to overcome the interplay of contradictions. A constituent assembly could provide that. The ideal would be to effect an "updating" of the Venezuelan political system, of which the constituent assembly would be one aspect, together with the creation of the post of prime minister, the reform of the Supreme Court, and the establishment of the referendum—not only to approve the amended Constitution, but also for legislative acts and the executive branch. This is the goal, in connection with the Consitutional Reform Commission's 30-year plan, which was being sought 2 years ago when the Commission, of which I was a member, was appointed. And we had already, at that time, studied a majority of the measures being suggested now. Would that the political forces might reach agreement on a legislative program so that this feeling could be communicated to the country!" [Box, p 6]

**Uprisings, Death Squads**

In November of 1991, a protest and fire set by the 2,693 inmates in the San Juan de los Morros Penitentiary left three dead and 20 wounded, and caused physical damage estimated at more than 20 million bolivares.

In January of 1992, there was talk of death squads killing those who attacked family members visiting the convicts. There were reports of 40 disappearances within three months, of burial pits, of two tunnels and six corpses. All of this has been denied by the authorities, but the legend continues to live....